Foreword to Platform

The 1982 National Conference of the Australian Labor Party takes its place among the most important and most successful ever. Its historic importance reflects both the new, broadly representative composition of the National Conference and the high quality of the work performed by the delegates.

Its success reflects the long months of planning and preparation which went into its organisation. We are all indebted to the scores of men and women, including many volunteers, who worked so hard before and during the Conference to ensure its success at every level.

In a way achieved by no previous National Conference, the 1982 Conference performed one of the Labor Party's most important roles — the educative role in Australia's political and economic affairs. The theme of the Conference was — Preparing for Government.

By that standard, the Conference carried out its task admirably. The Conference has provided the Party with a comprehensive, effective and realistic programme which can provide the basis for the best government Australia has ever had.

The Conference has done its work well. The rest is now up to every member of the Australian Labor Party, at all levels, to ensure the return of a Labor government, whenever the next elections are held.

N.K. WRAN
National President
R.F. McMULLAN
National Secretary
Conference Resolution pertaining to the Platform


In 1982 the National Conference passed a resolution with relevance to the Platform as a whole. It reads as follows—

Conference notes with concern the deteriorating state of the Australian economy and the consequences in terms of unemployment, poverty, social inequity and declining availability of government services.

Conference recognises that the platform of the Party represents short and long term aspirations of the ALP, and that the programme for the first three years of a Labor Government will be drawn from it.

Conference requests that the Federal Parliamentary Party will in preparing a programme for government—

i. give priorities to policies designed to bring about sustained economic recovery, a fair distribution of the benefits of economic growth and improvements in the welfare and standard of living of the Australian people.

ii. implement other platforms and policies according to a time scale to be determined having regard to the above overall priorities of the Party.

It is to be noted that Resolutions contained herein are those adopted by the 1982 National Conference. Resolutions are entered immediately following each section of the relevant Platform. General Policy Decisions and Resolutions of previous National Conferences not dealt with by their Conference still stand as decisions of the Party’s supreme policy-making body and can be found by reference to earlier editions of the Party’s Platform.
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Abbreviations

The following are common abbreviations, used in the Platform.

ABC AUSTRALIAN BROADCASTING COMMISSION
ABS AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS
ACT AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY
ACTU AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF TRADE UNIONS
AFCO AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION OF CONSUMER ORGANISATIONS
ALP AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY
ANZUS AUSTRALIA NEW ZEALAND, UNITED STATES (TREATY)
ASEAN ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH EAST ASIAN NATIONS
ASIO AUSTRALIAN SECURITY INTELLIGENCE ORGANISATION
ASTEC AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL
CAGEO COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE ORGANISATIONS
CEEP COMMONWEALTH EMPLOYEES (EMPLOYMENT PROVISIONS) ACT
CE(RR) COMMONWEALTH EMPLOYEES (REDEPLOYMENT AND RETIREMENT) ACT
CES COMMONWEALTH EMPLOYMENT SERVICE
CPI CONSUMER PRICE INDEX
CSIRO COMMONWEALTH SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH ORGANISATION
CSL COMMONWEALTH SERUM LABORATORIES
EEC EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY
ESCAP ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA IN THE PACIFIC
ETUC EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION
FPLP FEDERAL PARLIAMENTARY LABOR PARTY
GNP GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT
ICFTU INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF FREE TRADE UNIONS
ILO INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANISATION
IMF INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND
NAC NATIONAL ABORIGINAL CONFERENCE
NEPSC NATIONAL EMPLOYEE PARTICIPATION STEERING COMMITTEE
NIDA NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF DRAMATIC ART
Basic Principles

A Origins

The Australian Labor Party had its origins in—
the aspirations of the Australian people for a decent, secure,
dignified and constructive way of life;
the recognition by the trade union movement of the necessity for a
political voice to take forward the struggle of the working class
against the excesses, injustices and inequalities of capitalism; and
the commitment by the Australian people to the creation of an
independent, free and enlightened Australia.

B Objectives

The Australian Labor Party is a democratic socialist party and has
the objective of the democratic socialisation of industry, production,
distribution and exchange, to the extent necessary to eliminate
exploitation and other anti-social features in these fields.
To achieve the political and social values of equality, democracy,
liberty and social co-operation inherent in this objective, the Austra-
lian Labor Party stands for—
1 Redistribution of political and economic power so that all members
of society have the opportunity to participate in the shaping and
control of the institutions and relationships which determine their
lives.
2 Establishment and development of public enterprises, based upon
federal, state and other forms of social ownership, in appropriate
sectors of the economy.
3 Democratic control and strategic social ownership of Australian
natural resources for the benefit of all Australians.
4 Maintenance of and support for a competitive non-monopolistic
private sector, including small business and farming, controlled and
owned by Australians, operating within clear social guidelines and
objectives.
5 The right to own private property.
6 Recognition and encouragement of the right of labour to organise for the protection and advancement of its interests.
7 The application of democracy in industry to increase the opportunities for people to work in satisfying, healthy and humane conditions, and to participate in and to increase their control over the decision-making processes affecting them.
8 The promotion of socially appropriate technology and the monitoring of its introduction to ensure that the needs and interests of labour, as well as the requirements of competitive industry and consumer demand, are taken into consideration.
9 The restoration and maintenance of full employment.
10 The abolition of poverty, and the achievement of greater equality in the distribution of income, wealth and opportunity.
11 Social justice and equality for individuals, the family and all social units, and the elimination of exploitation in the home.
12 Equal access and rights to employment, education, information, technology, housing, health and welfare services, cultural and leisure activities and the law.
13 Reform of the Australian Constitution and other political institutions to ensure that they reflect the will of the majority of Australian citizens and the existence of Australia as an independent republic.
14 Recognition and protection of fundamental political and civil rights, including freedom of expression, the press, assembly, association, conscience and religion; the right to privacy; the protection of the individual from oppression by the state; and democratic reform of the Australian legal system.
15 The development of a democratic communications system, as an integral part of a free society, to which all citizens have opportunities for free access.
16 Elimination of discrimination and exploitation on the grounds of class, race, sex, sexuality, religion, political affiliation, national origin, citizenship, age, disability, regional location, or economic or household status.
17 Recognition of the prior ownership of Australian land by Aborigines and Islanders; recognition of their special and essential relationship with the land as the basis of their culture; and a commitment to the return of established traditional lands to the ownership of Aboriginal and Islander communities.
18 Recognition and encouragement of diversity of cultural expression and lifestyle within the Australian community.
19 The proper management of Australian resources and protection of the environment, whether created by people or nature, to safeguard the rights of present and future generations.
20 Maintenance of world peace; an independent Australian position in world affairs; the recognition of the right of all nations to self-determination and independence; regional and international agreement for arms control and disarmament; the provision of economic
and social aid to developing nations; a commitment to resolve international conflicts through the United Nations; and a recognition of the inalienable right of all people to liberty, equality, democracy and social justice.

21 Commitment to and participation in the international democratic socialist movement as represented by the Socialist International.

22 Recognition of the right of citizens to work for progressive changes consistent with the broad principles of democratic socialism.

C Principles of Action

The Australian Labor Party believes that the task of building democratic socialism is a co-operative process which requires—

23 Constitutional action through the Australian and State Parliaments, municipal and other statutory authorities.

24 Union action.

25 Ongoing action by organised community groups.

D Membership and Organisation

Membership of the Australian Labor Party is open to all residents of Australia who are prepared to accept its objectives and who have associations with no other political party. Australian Labor Party policy is made by National Conferences comprising the national and state parliamentary leadership of the Party, together with elected delegates from all states, the Australian Capital Territory, the Northern Territory and Australian Young Labor.

Party policy within the states and territories is framed by conferences of delegates elected by constituent branches and affiliated unions. Policy within the Australian Labor Party is not made by directives from the leadership, but by resolutions originating from branches, affiliated unions and individual party members.
1 Aborigines and Islanders

A Preamble
For many thousands of years prior to the coming of white people to Australia, Aborigines and Islanders were the sole inhabitants of this continent. Discipline was embodied in the tribal structure. Each member had expectations and limitations within this discipline; there was total awareness of being in harmony with the land and ‘dreaming’.

With the coming of white people, traditional land was stolen, spiritual links shattered, the tribal economy broken, ritual life was disrupted and, in places, ceased. In many cases Aborigines and Islanders were murdered and tribes separated. Leadership and kinship structures and culture were often devastated and many Aborigines and Islanders became dependent on white people. Strong remaining ties of family and clan were no match for collective feelings of defeat and dispossession. Aboriginality no longer meant pride, substance and belonging; it no longer meant a life-long exploration of the joys of the spirit. It came to mean constant denigration and contempt, grinding poverty, fear, helplessness and apathy. Aboriginal values were slowly undermined so that Aborigines and Islanders could only relate to white commercial society with shame and embarrassment.
A Labor Government will—

B Land Rights
1 Grant land rights and compensation to Aboriginal and Islander
communities, using the principles and recommendations of the Aboriginal Land Rights Commission (Woodward Report) as a basis for legislation, subject to a continuing review.

2 Ensure that Aboriginal and Islander people in each state or territory have access to land grants in accordance with these principles by seeking complementary state or territory legislation and where this is not introduced use Commonwealth constitutional powers and legislation to achieve these objectives.

3 Allocate funds to allow the acquisition of land for Aboriginal and Islander communities throughout Australia.

4 Recognising that in some parts of Australia and in many other countries freehold land includes the mineral rights, incorporate in its land rights legislation the following principles—
   a Aboriginal and Islander people shall have the right to refuse permission for mining on their land or to impose conditions under which mining may proceed. To set aside a refusal, or conditions imposed, shall require an Act of Parliament; and
   b royalties from mining on Aboriginal’s or Islanders’ land shall be paid to Trusts administered by Aboriginal and Islander people to be for the use and benefit of the Aboriginal and Islander people in the particular state or territory after meeting the needs of the Aboriginal people created by that mining.

5 Give financial support to the outstation (homelands centre) movement, for those groups which have established, or wish to establish, decentralised communities on their traditional lands.

6 Fully investigate the principle of a Treaty of Commitment as negotiated on other continents to set out the legal and cultural relationships between the Aboriginal and Islander peoples and the wider Australian community.

C Sacred Sites

7 Take responsibility, where necessary—
   a for the establishment of representative councils of Aborigines and Islanders, for securing identification and protection of sacred sites including women’s sacred sites, and other sites of significance; and
   b for preserving sacred objects and other valued articles belonging to Aboriginal and Islander people, including those objects in museums and storage.

8 Assist Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders’ guardians and custodians to regain and preserve objects of cultural and spiritual significance.

9 Develop, in co-operation with the states and territories, effective Aboriginal heritage legislation.
D National Aboriginal Conference

10 Develop and make effective the NAC as advising body to the Government and extend its powers as a policy making and organising authority amongst Aboriginal and Islander communities.

11 Ensure that the NAC has a structure and procedures acceptable to Aboriginal and Islander communities.

12 Support the policy of self-determination and make an annual allowance to the NAC to enable it to operate its own activities.

E Discrimination and Rights

13 Legislate against all forms of discrimination as part of a programme to provide equal rights and opportunities for all persons and in particular to ensure the provision of equal rights and opportunities for all Aborigines and Islanders.


15 Ensure the continuation of existing Aboriginal legal services where required, and, where necessary, establish further Aboriginal legal services.

16 Finance Aboriginal legal services to provide advice, and to initiate court action, when this is considered to be to the advantage of Aboriginal and Islander communities.

17 If supported by Aboriginal men and women throughout Australia, legislate to recognise aspects of traditional law in the light of the recommendations of the Law Reform Commission.

18 Remove all discriminatory laws and implement appropriate electoral educational programmes.

F Housing

19 Initiate in co-operation with state and territory governments a programme to house all Aboriginal and Islander people over a period of 6 (six) years, to a standard acceptable to them and devised in consultation with them.

20 Make funds available to Aborigines and Islanders to purchase their own homes and to local communities and housing associations to build, purchase and maintain houses both for rental and for sale and to provide assistance, if required, for new and disadvantaged occupants, for the purpose of establishing and maintaining all Aborigines, Islanders and families in homes.

21 Provide alternative accommodation and services for those Aborigines and Islanders not desiring permanent residences.

22 Take such action as is necessary to enable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to obtain skills and employment in the housing and construction and maintenance industry, as a matter of priority.
G Health

23 Set a timetable for the provision of shelter and essential services, such as water, electricity, sewage and rubbish disposal to all Aboriginal and Islander communities. The provision of these services should be carried out in consultation with Aboriginal and Islander people and should recognise the needs of communities who wish to retain their traditional lifestyle.

24 Support and develop Aboriginal and Islander controlled health services as the main agents for the delivery of health services to Aboriginal and Islander people.

25 Transfer funds from areas of inefficient state health administrations to Aboriginal-controlled health services.

26 Establish a comprehensive Australia-wide collection of statistics on all aspects of Aboriginal health.

27 Encourage the incorporation of traditional Aboriginal health practices in Aboriginal health services.

28 Initiate an Australia-wide federally-funded Aboriginal controlled programme to train Aboriginal health workers at all levels including university training as doctors.

H Education

29 Recognising that the general education policy of the Party applies to everyone in Australia—
   a introduce special education programmes for Aborigines and Islanders at all levels. Such programmes will include—
      i bilingual teaching (i.e. in English and in the preferred indigenous languages) where practicable and desirable;
      ii pre-school education for every Aboriginal and Islander child;
      iii adult education as broadly as possible;
      iv training Aborigines and Islanders as teachers and teacher-aides;
      v technical and managerial training and seeking the cooperation of the trade union movement in recognising traditional skills;
      vi funds to expand the general availability of courses of study at post-secondary institutions in race relations and Aboriginal and Islander society;
      vii encouragement of Aboriginal and Islander communities to participate in their own education and planning services; and
   b conduct a national inquiry into Aboriginal and Islander education to form the basis for future policy.

30 Revise education allowances available to adult Aboriginal students to take account of the financial needs of adult students with family responsibilities.
I Employment

31 Labor will implement a policy of affirmative action and legislate to ensure that each Commonwealth department and statutory authority increases career opportunities for Aboriginal and Islander employees to a level not less than the ratio of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population to the non-Aboriginal population. Labor will encourage state, territory and local governments and the private sector to do likewise.

32 Establish a National Aboriginal Employment and Training Programme to work with the public and private sectors, state, territory and local governments, to implement this policy.

33 Ensure that Aborigines and Islanders receive at least the standard rate of pay for the job and receive the same industrial protection as others living in Australia.

J History and Culture

34 Ensure that every child in Australia is taught and encouraged to understand the history and culture of Aboriginal and Islander Australians, as an integral part of the history of Australia as approved by Aboriginal and Islander people. The programme to be extended to adults wherever practicable.

35 Establish a Museum of Aboriginal Australia.

36 Recognising that aspects of traditional culture are secret to particular members of Aboriginal and Islander communities—
   a legislate to preserve such secrecy in accordance with the wishes of those persons;
   b legislate to ensure the return, where appropriate, of significant or sacred objects to their traditional owners.

37 Negotiate with the Australian Broadcasting Commission and other sections of the media to broadcast regularly a session presenting a programme in various Aboriginal and Islander languages spoken in the area.

38 Encourage and assist the publication and distribution of material in indigenous languages.

39 Negotiate with the states and territories to have a uniform day observed as a holiday to be known as National Aboriginal and Islanders Day.

K Consultation

40 In pursuing its commitment to self-determination, Labor will consult with the Aboriginal and Islander people and communities, and have
regard to their views and implement only those programmes approved of and accepted by them and in particular ensure that—
a such consultation is to take account of the way in which such people and communities choose to reach decisions;  
b in all relevant government departments adequate staff levels are maintained and procedures to comply with this policy are adopted; and  
c where funds are paid to, or administered by, state and territory governments, those governments comply with this policy.

Aborigines and Islanders — Resolution

This conference condemns the attitude and policies of the Queensland Government in putting the Commonwealth Games and public safety at risk. The Conference reaffirms the Labor Party’s full support for the games and calls on the Federal Government to assert its constitutional authority and responsibilities for effective land rights and the well-being of Aboriginal people in Queensland and throughout Australia.
2 The Arts

A Introduction

Labor believes that—
The arts are a vital factor in individual and social development and in the maintenance of an independent national culture that encompasses the full diversity of Aboriginal, ethnic and other minority cultures that exist in contemporary Australia.
To achieve such objectives in the national arts policy, the fullest participation of performing and individual artists is essential.
The development of the arts and recreation facilities and the widespread accessibility of such facilities is a fundamental need in our society.
Such development should take place within a framework of educational policies, and particularly policies of continuing education. The provision of adequate facilities to enable greater participation and involvement in the arts is a responsibility which requires the cooperation of national, state, territory and local government and proper accountability for expenditure.

B The National Arts Policy

In accordance with these principles a Labor Government will give priority to—

1 Enlarging the role of the Australia Council as the national funding body for public patronage of the arts. The Australia Council should—
a provide maintenance support to organisations which sustain the highest level of achievement in the arts and those which service the arts;
b provide support to individual artists to experiment and engage in the pursuit of excellence;

c provide comprehensive support for everyone in the community to have access to, and participate in, the arts for personal development or enjoyment;

d encourage freedom of expression in the arts and facilitate innovation in ideas and the development of new talents;

e act as a co-ordinating body backed by strong and autonomous Boards in the various art forms;

f have the Boards of the Australia Council include membership from community groups, trade unions, and other consumer representatives;

g be responsible for the allocation of federal funds to all performing companies including the Australian Opera and the Australian Ballet;

h ensure that national companies perform outside their base cities and act as a resource for state and regional companies by such means as the exchanging and loan of individual artists and other company resources;

i co-operate with the Australian Broadcasting Commission, the Australian Film Commission, the Australian Film and Television School and the National Institute of Dramatic Art to ensure the co-ordinated development of Australian talent and the maximum accessibility to Australian culture by the community; and

j assume responsibility for Artbank and Australia's international cultural agreements and activities.

2 Encouraging arts activities in special interest areas such as children, youth, Aboriginals, ethnic groups, workplaces, pensioners, disadvantaged persons and regional and outback Australia.

3 Developing strong teaching programmes (in primary and secondary schools) to encourage appreciation of, and participation in, the performing and creative arts.

4 Maximising the use of existing buildings and facilities for cultural and creative purposes.

5 Encouraging the performing arts and individual artists in local communities.

6 Promote the growth of employment and the improvement of working conditions for arts workers by—

a ensuring that imported performing arts activities do not reduce opportunities for Australian arts workers;

b ratifying and implementing international conventions relating to the protection of the rights of performers in the production of their work;

c reviewing personal taxation rules to resolve the special problems arising from fluctuation in incomes of performing and creative arts workers;
d removing anomalous tax requirements for performing arts companies; and
e reviewing and developing training opportunities for arts workers and arts administrators.

7 Institute a national library programme to update and co-ordinate library facilities throughout Australia and encourage the use of libraries as a freely accessible community resource.

8 In co-operating with state and territory governments and local authorities, initiate the development of a network of museums and galleries throughout urban and regional Australia for the exhibition of local art works and to facilitate the touring of national and international exhibitions throughout Australia.

9 Acknowledging past discrimination against women as artists and art-workers, assist special projects to overcome this discrimination.

C Film

10 Continue to support the growth of a national film industry and in particular—

a act to remove existing restrictive trade practices between film distributors and exhibitors;
b continue to encourage independent film producers by the provision of investment through the Australian Film Commission;
c require overseas distributors to give financial support from their earnings to Australian film production;
d require the Australian Film Commission to collate and publish statistics relating to production and distribution of Australian film;
e abolish concessional taxation allowances for foreign films, except where equal treatment arrangements exist with educational films;
f make the technologies of film and television more available for use by the Australian people through community work-shops, video access centres, and the encouragement of community television; and

g assist the development of new talent and ideas through the Creative Development Branch of the Australian Film Commission.
3 Communications

A Introduction

Communications is having an increasing significance and impact on modern life, and decisions taken by government and others in the next few years will have profound influence for many decades. Communications and information policy will therefore be a major area of endeavour for an incoming Labor government. Technological developments, and proposals which challenge long-standing arrangements in broadcasting, telecommunications and print media are under active discussion in Australia. Distinctions between traditionally separate forms of communications, including transmission systems, are becoming blurred.

These new developments should be used democratically in the public interest, rather than anti-socially by increased concentration in private hands. Effective democratising of communications, by innovation and reform, requires not only well thought-out initial action, but stability and sympathetic administration during implementation and development over several terms of Labor government. Because of this and because of the potential for irresponsible party political and vested-interest opposition, Labor asserts a set of principles upon which Labor governments should act and the policy objectives set out hereunder.

B Principles of Communications Policy

The principles, which will govern Labor's actions in government, are therefore asserted—

Access to information is a right in modern society, and facilitating free flow of information is one of the prime responsibilities of government.

Information and comment by all forms of media should be governed by fair and democratic principles, and not by ministerial or...
other political interference, nor by any sectional or private interest, including that arising through monopoly control.

Insofar as government is involved with setting up communication structures, as in broadcasting, there should be a deliberate creation of as large a diversity of media sources as possible and monopoly ownership of resources should be resisted. The development of democracy and tolerance should be fostered by the encouragement of as wide a range of entertainment, opinion and cultural interests as possible. Communications policy should reflect the special needs of minority and disadvantaged groups in the community.

All media has to be adequately funded in order to perform well, and therefore due regard should be paid to financial consideration in all policy on communications. Communications policy should aid the fostering of an independent Australian national identity and culture and reflect the special needs of minority and disadvantaged groups in the community.

In communications the principle of public interest must be put before any other consideration such as private gain, whilst recognising that profitability may be necessary to enable the serving of the public interest.

The communications spectrum is a national resource and shall be used under licence in the public interest. Properly managed development in communications affords the opportunity to create new jobs and industries in Australia, and this should be a prime requirement of all such development.

A 'social contract' applies to all involved in originating media services in that benefits accruing to media operators implies a social obligation to provide an adequate public service.

The independence of the media should not be compromised by political allocation of licences, partisan and biased selection of appointees to regulatory and administrative bodies. The principles of open judicial determination of controversial issues, and bi-partisan selection of appointees to public offices should be followed.

C Policy Objectives

The objectives of Labor policy will be attained by applying the foregoing principles to the issues and situations confronted in government. Some objectives are immediate and stated in specific terms; others are longer term, and subject to implementation as soon as political and economic conditions permit.

D Broadcasting: Commercial and Public

1 The continued development of the administrative structures of
broadcasting, based on a Department of Communications, the Broadcasting Tribunal and the Broadcasting Council. A Labor government will work with these bodies to develop proper and responsive planning mechanisms, to provide fair hearing procedures and systems and to establish adequate research and information facilities providing scope and support for the expression of public interests.

2 Strengthening the judicial standing of the Australian Broadcasting Tribunal and its powers to develop proper criteria for the licensing of stations and appropriate penalties for breaches of conditions.

3 Streamlining and simplifying the broadcasting planning process to remove delays in providing television and radio services.

E National Broadcasting

4 The adoption by Parliament of a clear statement of the ABC's function as a national broadcaster of high quality, 'mainstream' programmes, and quality minority and specialised service programmes.

5 Selection of ABC Commissioners by an all-party Parliamentary Committee, and reform of the management of the ABC by introduction of greater mobility and flexibility in employment.

6 Removal of the ABC from Public Service Board control.

7 The introduction of an ABC subscription television service and the creation of a second regional radio network.

8 Full ABC participation in all new technology in broadcasting.

9 The ABC to be funded by parliamentary appropriations with no advertising or corporate underwriting, to a level necessary to establish the ABC as a great national broadcasting institution —

10 Investigate means of ensuring that events of national significance are broadcast in such a way that they are available to all Australians regardless where they live.

11 Maintenance of an independent adequately funded ABC National News gathering operation and separately organised Public Affairs service without reliance on any commercial domestic news service.

F Commercial Broadcasting

12 The commercial broadcasting sector should be diverse in programming and control, with high levels of Australian content and good programme quality.

13 The commercial sector should be protected against foreign penetration of ownership and control.

14 There should be a limitation on the ownership of radio and television services by newspaper interests.
G Public Broadcasting

15 Development of all forms of public broadcasting systems which are diverse in programming and control.

16 Public broadcasting must —
   a be adequately funded to realise its full potential, and a Labor government will therefore work with public broadcasters to develop funding methods which are stable, diverse and contribute to an adequate income for each station; and
   b be given parity with commercial and national broadcasting in having sufficient transmission power to cover the area of service of stations.

H Ethnic and Multicultural Broadcasting

17 Increasing funding of ethnic and multicultural broadcasting, and developing these services as facilities controlled by ethnic communities themselves. A Labor government will expand ethnic radio through the public radio system, under community control. Multicultural television will be developed into an independent channel available in all states and territories with public access for ethnic communities. In order to achieve this, existing ABC technical services should be made available both in television and radio areas. In addition, all sectors of broadcasting will be encouraged to present multicultural broadcasting.

18 Subject to satisfactory alternate arrangements being made with ethnic communities for management of 2EA and 3EA, and for funding of ethnic broadcasting by alternative means, the abolition of the Special Broadcasting Service.

I Broadcasting in General

19 Support and participate as a Federal government in the Australian Children’s Television Foundation.

20 Enactment of all-channels receiver legislation to ensure that all domestic TV and radio reception equipment sold in Australia is equipped with all channels planned for use in Australia during the life of the equipment.

21 Legislation to control electromagnetic interference to consumer equipment.

22 Support and participate as a Federal government in the development of Aboriginal community-controlled and operated radio broadcasting stations.

J Telecommunications

Labor will ensure that the maintenance and development of the national telecommunications system occurs in a co-ordinated manner designed to achieve the optimum availability of a wide range of
communications services to meet the needs of both domestic and commercial users. Subject to the principles enumerated, Labor's National Communications Policy will have the following objectives—

23 Preservation and development of a single system which is a publicly owned integrated national system including both terrestrial and satellite components and all cable systems. Such a system will include transmission, switching and full participation in the provision of all terminal services.

24 Ensuring adequate funding for the national system, and the capacity to participate in all new technology; promotion of communications as a major area of new employment.

25 Ensuring that the social and industrial costs of technological change in telecommunications are borne nationally and do not disadvantage those working in telecommunications, in terms of employment and working conditions.

26 Ensuring that no part of Australia is disadvantaged in telecommunications.

27 Ensuring that Australian industry and employment benefits from the development of new systems and technology.

28 The development of cable systems for both television and other communications, as part of a national network publicly owned, with access by all broadcasters by licence, for set periods, after public competitive hearing processes.

K Postal Communication

29 The development of an efficient postal system on the basis of a publicly owned national utility with exclusive rights to carry letters for reward.

30 The postal system to be available to Australians who reasonably require the service.

31 Electronic mail to be handled by Australia Post.

32 Australia Post to be empowered to competitively market a variety of services including high-speed and door-to-door pick up and delivery services.

L Other Matters

33 Initiate further study into the feasibility of fostering the establishment of a newspaper, independent of both government and existing private interests, and owned by those who run it.

34 Undertake a continuing review of the laws of copyright to ensure adequate protection for the originators of artistic, literary and other creative forms, whilst at the same time guaranteeing the community fullest access to its cultural heritage.

35 Ratify and implement international conventions relating to the protection of the rights of performers in the products of their work.
36 The provision of broadcast time on an equitable basis to political parties for the purpose of electoral broadcasts and the exclusion of paid political advertising on radio and television.
37 Remove electronic blackout on political news in the 3 days before an election.
38 Appoint members of statutory broadcasting bodies only after reference of proposed appointments to a Joint Committee of Parliament, with a view to securing appointments of persons independent of the political process and vested interests.
39 Provide financial assistance, where appropriate, to community interest groups concerned with the media.
40 Foster the publication, printing and distribution of newspapers, books, magazines and other printed material in Australia.
41 Foster the production and distribution of recorded Australian music, video cassettes and similar material.
42 Orderly development of Citizens' Band Radio.
43 Initiate a study into the most appropriate ways of eliminating sexism in the content of the media.
4 Constitutional and Legal

A Introduction

Labor is committed to constitutional legislative and administrative reforms for the purpose of achieving efficient and democratic government, a responsive national Parliament and an adequate and flexible division of powers between Commonwealth, state, territory and local governments. A Labor government will seek to implement the following reforms-

B Constitutional Reform

Constitutional Change

The support of the Australian people will be sought for amendments to the Australian Constitution—

1 To guarantee the right to vote and ensure the principle of one-vote one-value in all Australian and state and territory elections.
2 To provide for the simultaneous election of the Senate and House of Representatives.
3 To ensure that the Senate has no power to reject, defer or otherwise block money bills.
4 To provide that the Senate may delay for up to six months, but not reject, any other proposed law.
5 To provide that a government enjoying the confidence of the House of Representatives shall be permitted to hold office for the prescribed term.
6 To define and limit the powers of the Governor-General so as to ensure that he or she acts in accordance with the advice of the government enjoying the confidence of the House of Representatives.
7 To bring about the complete legal separation of Australia from the United Kingdom Crown and Parliament.
8 To provide the Commonwealth Parliament with such powers as are necessary for national planning and the achievement of the Party's economic and social objectives.
9 To ensure that the High Court has final appellate jurisdiction in all questions.
10 To create a single uniform system of courts throughout Australia.
11 To invest the High Court with jurisdiction to give advisory opinions.
12 To provide for the protection of fundamental human rights and freedoms.

Machinery of Constitutional Change
13 A Labor government will support and fund a people's popularly elected convention and involve to the maximum extent the Australian people in the process of constitutional change.
14 Labor will seek to amend the Constitution to provide for its alteration by a simple majority of the electorate.

National Symbols
15 Labor will initiate and support moves to establish with popular acceptance an Australian flag and national anthem which will more distinctly reflect our national independence and identity.

Federalism
16 Adjustment of the relationships among national, state, territory, regional and local authorities to enable rational economic decision-making and resource allocation, effective provision of public services, recognition of local needs and aspirations and maximum opportunity for participation in the decision-making process.
17 The interchange of legislative powers between the Australian, state and territory parliaments, where appropriate.
18 Joint planning and co-operative development with the states of programmes of national significance, where the national government has insufficient constitutional power.
19 Provision to the states and territories of sufficient funds to enable them to maintain effective services without resorting to inappropriate or inequitable methods of taxation.
20 Continued development of regional programmes and structures, utilising regional boundaries employed by the states wherever appropriate. The amalgamation and regional organisation of local government to be specifically encouraged.
21 Self-government for the ACT with devolution of powers on terms and conditions suitable to and agreed by both the Federal government and the ACT House of Assembly.

Australian Parliament
22 The reform of the Parliament to provide for-
23 In conjunction with other proposed changes to the role of the Senate, the location of all Ministers in the House of Representatives.
24 The rostering of Ministers in both Houses at question times.
25 The provision of adequate machinery for the initiation and consideration of non-government legislation in both Houses.
26 The reform of state Upper Houses and, ultimately, their abolition.
27 The definition and limitation of the powers of state governors.
28 In bicameral parliaments, elections of both Houses to be synchronised.
29 The public declaration of financial interests by Members of Parliament, territorial and local governments and their immediate families, the staff of Ministers and Shadow Ministers, and journalists accredited to parliaments.
30 The up-dating of the rules relating to conflict of interest of public officials.
31 No Imperial honours or titles to be granted but appropriate recognition to be given for exceptional national or community service.
32 Colonial impediments on the power of the Australian, state and territory governments to be removed.

Electoral Reform

33 The general reform of electoral laws to guarantee the right to vote, to ensure that it can in practice be exercised and to ensure the principle of one-vote one-value.
34 The establishment of independent, public and permanent Electoral Commissions to review electoral boundaries, to administer and monitor public funding and to ensure fairness in the conduct of elections.
35 Fairer and more efficient procedures for the maintenance of accurate electoral rolls to ensure that no one is arbitrarily deprived of the right to vote.
36 The establishment of joint Commonwealth/state electoral rolls for all states and territories.
37 Adoption of a system of optional preferential voting for all elections with all votes remaining valid while the voter's intention is clear.
38 Electoral laws to provide for—
   a full identification of candidates and drawing of positions by lot on ballot papers in all elections;
   b accessibility of polling booths, including the use of mobile booths; and
   c fairness in polling procedures.
39 Laws governing election campaigns to provide for—
   a payment of proportionate subsidies by governments to political parties and candidates;
   b disclosure of donations or other assistance to political parties and candidates;
   c proportionate access and time for political parties in the electronic media;
   d prohibition of political advertisements in the electronic media from 48 hours prior to the commencement of polling day; and
   e remedies against blatantly deceptive electoral advertising.
Freedom of Information

40 The enactment of effective Freedom of Information legislation granting the public full entitlement to the disclosure of government and administrative decision-making, subject only to the requirements of essential security and individual privacy.

41 Regular tabling in Parliament of full information on the operation of government and semi-government agencies. Records, resolutions and recommendations of conferences of Australian, state and territory ministers and officials to be tabled in their respective parliaments.

C Civil Liberties and Law Reform

Constitutional Powers and Protections

42 The Constitution to be amended to enable the Australian Parliament to make laws with respect to the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms and to provide for the introduction of an Australian Bill of Rights.

43 The Australian Parliament and state and territory parliaments to take such legislative and administrative steps as are necessary to fully protect and enforce fundamental human rights and freedoms against both government and private interference.

44 Australia, in accordance with its obligations under the United Nations Charter, to pass laws and to press for worldwide and regional implementation and enforcement of international covenants on human rights and fundamental freedoms. The states and territories also to pass laws necessary for such implementation and enforcement.

45 The censorship law to conform with the principle that adults be entitled to read, hear and see what they wish in private and in public, subject to adequate provisions preventing persons being exposed to unsolicited material offensive to them and preventing conduct exploiting, or detrimental to, the interests of children.

46 Restrictions on freedom of expression of public servants and former public servants to be reduced to the minimum necessary for the conduct of the affairs of state.

47 Specific measures to be taken to ensure the full enjoyment throughout Australia of the right of peaceful assembly and protest.

Equality and Non-Discrimination

48 Legislative and administrative action to be instituted by the Australian, state and territory governments to eliminate discrimination on the grounds of sex, race, colour, disability, language, sexuality, age, pregnancy, status, creed or politics wherever it is practised.
Privacy and Reputation

49 The right to privacy to be protected by the laws of the Australian, state and territory parliaments, and vigilant administration of those laws.

50 Evidence obtained by illegal invasion of privacy to be prima facie inadmissible in court proceedings.

51 The law on defamation to be made uniform throughout Australia and to be simplified and expressed so as to ensure a proper balance between the right to freedom of expression and the right of a person not to be exposed to unjustifiable attacks on honour and reputation.

Security

52 Australian Security Intelligence Organisation (ASIO) to be subjected to independent financial audit and to periodic judicial review to ensure that it complies with its charter, operates within the law, does not unjustifiably infringe civil liberties and is responsible to government.

53 ASIO legislation to be amended to precisely define and limit the jurisdiction of the organisation and to ensure maximum public and private accountability, in a manner consistent with full recognition of democratic rights and liberties.

54 The Attorney-General to be required to make an annual report to Parliament—

a on the working of ASIO, any infringements of its governing regulations and action taken in regard to such infringements; and

b on the use, for national security purposes or otherwise, of electronic surveillance devices and the operation of legislation in relation thereto.

55 ASIO to be forbidden to make personal records except where necessary for national security and from retaining them any longer than necessary for such security.

56 An adequate appeals tribunal to be established to hear and determine appeals from all people adversely affected by security assessment and provision to be made for effective redress to be available for all people unjustifiably disadvantaged by security and intelligence activities.

57 The relation of legislation and administrative arrangements relating to all Australian and state security and intelligence to comply with the principles embodied in the preceding paragraphs.

General Law Reform

58 Law reform legislation to be the result of maximum public discussion and participation both prior to, and following, the introduction of legislation into Parliament.

59 Expansion of the powers and facilities of the Australian Law Reform Commission to enable it to adequately advise on all aspects of law reform.

60 A National Law Reform Advisory Council to be established, with
representatives from Government, Opposition and law reform agencies from the Commonwealth and each state and territory, to more effectively co-ordinate and advance the work of law reform on major issues of common or national interest.

61 Uniformity in the content of law and administration of justice to be encouraged wherever possible.

Access to Law
62 Procedures to be established whereby individuals can initiate review of legislation which produces unfair, unjust or unintended results.
63 Implementation of class action procedures or other appropriate means of ensuring legal redress for multiple small claimants in consumer, civil rights, discrimination, welfare, environment and similar matters.
64 Reform of the law of standing to ensure effective access to the courts, especially in environment protection and other major public interest matters.
65 Reform of the law of costs in all jurisdictions to ensure greater fairness in the administration of justice.
66 Simplification of the laws and reduction of costs of litigation especially by elimination of unnecessary procedures.
67 Publication of all legislation in consolidated form at frequent intervals.
68 Imprisonment not to be imposed in default of payment of costs in any proceedings.

Administrative Law
69 All delegated legislation to be publicised and subject to disallowance by Parliament. Such legislation not to unduly trespass on civil rights and liberties; not to make the rights and liberties of individuals unduly dependent upon administrative rather than judicial decisions; and to be concerned with administrative detail and not matters of substance.
70 The powers of the national Ombudsman to be increased to enable him or her to investigate fully any complaints made against any government agency and to take the necessary remedial action.
71 The expansion of the jurisdiction of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal to review all ministerial, administrative and tribunal decisions, at the instigation of any adversely affected individual.

Criminal Law
72 The criminal law to be reformed in all jurisdictions by placing emphasis on prevention of crime, the protection of society, the compensation of victims and the rehabilitation of offenders rather than on punishment.
73 The law governing sentencing and parole to be reformed in all jurisdictions so as to ensure—
a consistency of penalties and sentencing practices;
b exclusion of capital and corporal punishment, and maximum use of non-custodial sentencing options; and
c standardisation of non-parole periods and remissions, and introduction of fairer parole procedures.

74 Laws on sexual offences to extend to rape in marriage and sexual harassment and to be redefined as grades of sexual assault.

75 Laws on sexual offences to be applied so as to minimise the trauma of the necessary investigations and trial procedures and fully protect the rights of the victim while maintaining the right of the accused to a fair trial.

76 Uniform minimum standards relating to the control and use of firearms to be developed and applied.

Criminal Process
77 Procedural criminal law to be amended in all jurisdictions so as to require—
a reform of police investigation and interrogation procedures to ensure that there is no maltreatment or unfairness and that no-one is compelled to incriminate himself or herself;
b evidence obtained in contravention of the above to be prima facie inadmissible;
c powers to arrest without warrant to be reduced to the minimum and procedures by way of summons to be encouraged;
d the criteria applied by courts, Justices and the police in making bail decisions to be clarified and reformed;
e everyone charged with a criminal offence to be brought to trial without delay; and
f trial by jury in all serious criminal cases.

78 Training of police officers and those involved in the administration of the law to encourage the development of non-sexist and non-racist attitudes in the administration of the law.

Family Law
79 The Constitution to be amended or power referred by the states to the Australian Parliament to enable the jurisdiction of the Family Court to be extended to cover all family law matters.

80 The provision of sufficient judges, magistrates, court and counselling facilities to enable the proper administration of the Family Law Act in the spirit of that Act particularly to enable delays in proceedings to be abolished and to eliminate overcrowding of court and counselling facilities.

81 Laws and administrative procedures to be reformed to adopt a consistent approach to the liabilities of and benefits for people involved in de facto relationships.

82 Laws covering marriage and other domestic relationships to be further reformed to conform to a policy of equal legal rights for women and men living in such relationships.
83 The establishment of readily accessible Family Courts in suburban and regional areas.
84 The expansion of legal aid to ensure that no person is deprived of access to the Family Court.
85 Abolition of all fees imposed by the Australian Government in the Family Court.
86 Laws on contraception to be reformed so that all persons have the right to information, advice and techniques for controlling their reproductive function.

Business Law
87 The enactment of a national Companies Act to ensure a rational framework for business, its public accountability and the protection of consumers, shareholders and workers.
88 The establishment of a National Securities and Exchange Commission to oversee share trading, take-overs, company accounts and the compliance of companies with legal requirements.
89 The strengthening of the provisions of the Trade Practices Act and the expansion of the administrative resources for the enforcement of these provisions.
90 The regulation of all forms of insurance within the limits of constitutional power to be effected by the Australian Parliament.

Legal Profession
91 Inquiries to be undertaken into the composition, education, conduct and remuneration of the legal profession to make recommendations for reform in the public interest.

Legal Aid
92 The system of legal aid to be expanded so as to ensure that everyone has ready and equal access to the courts and to legal assistance.
93 Support for the establishment directly by the Australian, state and territory governments of a national Legal Aid Commission to operate and administer a unified public sector legal aid scheme and to co-ordinate legal aid throughout Australia, including the provisions of financial assistance to community based legal aid services.
94 Legal aid services to be provided predominantly by salaried lawyers in easily accessible legal aid offices established throughout Australia on a regional basis.
95 Legal aid offices to be engaged in community legal education and advice programmes and involved in class actions and matters of law reform where appropriate.
5 Consumer Affairs

A Introduction

All citizens are consumers, whatever their status in society and wherever they live but differences in social position disadvantage consumers with lower incomes. Labor recognises that in modern economies many consumers are placed in a relatively weaker bargaining position than producers or suppliers.

Consumers are not merely purchasers of goods and services who are seeking to make an informed choice between a competing range of products and services and to complete that purchase at the lowest possible price. They are also employees who are seeking a stimulating working environment and just remuneration for their services. They are also taxpayers and as such are seeking an equitable tax burden of both direct and indirect taxes and a socially just distribution of these taxes.

In some form or other consumers are also investors in houses, insurance policies, savings banks and superannuation funds. They thus provide a share of the funds to support the investment demands created by their own consumption patterns. As investors consumers seek the highest rate of return on the funds they invest. Conversely, as borrowers of funds, consumers seek the lower interest rates when they invest in capital goods.

Consumers as voters demand a government prepared to protect their rights as purchasers of goods and services. The role of a Labor government should be to evolve an environment in which effective protection of consumers is provided without unnecessarily stifling business investment or activity.

Government action on behalf of consumers is even more important in the case of people on lower incomes, immigrants with a limited command of English and other groups with little knowledge of consumer rights.
A Labor government will ensure that consumers have real choices in relation to the goods and services they purchase, are fully informed about these choices and are protected from unfair and restrictive practices. To this end, high priority will be given to consumer education programmes.

A Labor government would accept the responsibility to legislate and otherwise act on behalf of consumers and to assist them to act effectively in their own interest.

At present there is a variety of state and federal consumer affairs legislation which is costly to business and the community in general. There is a pressing need for a co-ordinated and uniform approach to consumer affairs throughout Australia.

Using its constitutional powers a Federal Labor government will develop, in consultation with the states, 'model' legislation for consumer protection and will seek its adoption as uniform law throughout the Commonwealth.

Under a Labor government the proper role of a Department of Business and Consumer Affairs will be regulatory. The major legislation to be administered by this department will include Companies Law, National Companies and Securities Commission, Trade Practices Act, a modified prices justification machinery and the Customs Bureau, which are all regulatory arms of government. A Labor government will strengthen the protection of consumers by ensuring that all these legislative arms perform effectively their regulatory function.

B Administration and Policy Development

Labor will-

1 Strengthen the administration of the consumer affairs functions of the Australian Government, including-
   a enforcement of legislation, including Part IV and V of the Trade Practices Act;
   b upgrading facilities for consumer affairs research and policy development;
   c improving consultation and co-operation with states; and
   d better communications and co-operation between various government departments in the field of consumer affairs.

2 Revitalise the National Consumer Affairs Advisory Council by providing it with adequate funding for its own research and for the preparation of submissions to government, and ensure that the majority of its members represent consumer interests.

3 Re-establish prices justification machinery with a reformed charter to regulate the market for products and services which have major impact on consumers costs and which are susceptible to domination by one or a few suppliers. Consumers will be encouraged to represent their interests before this body.
C Legislation

4 Develop in consultation with the states, the N.T. and the A.C.T model legislation for consumer protection and seek its adoption as uniform law throughout the Commonwealth.

5 In co-operation with the states and territories, establish uniform credit legislation relating to hire-purchase agreements, debt collection, repossessing of goods, terms and conditions of loans and the regulation of credit reporting to ensure—
   a access of any person to a report on his or her credit status and the information on which it is based; and
   b maintenance of the privacy of the consumer.

6 Legislate for the provision of simplified and understandable information on credit terms, housing purchases and other areas of consumer concern and to provide greater protection for consumers in insurance contracts.

7 Prohibit discrimination in the granting of credit on the basis of sex, marital status, religion or ethnic background.

8 Amend the Trade Practices Act to—
   a broaden the definition of consumer to include farmers and small businessmen; and
   b include provisions governing harsh and unconscionable contracts.

D Product and Information Standards

9 Vigorously pursue in consultation with the states and territories, consumer interests and the industries affected, the development of uniform codes and standards for production, packaging and labelling and unit price marking, advertising, food and drugs, and other products and services supplied to consumers.

10 Ensure that all standards and codes are enforced through the product safety and information provisions of the Trade Practices Act or other appropriate legislation.

11 Include in food and drug standards requirements in relation to quality and nutrition, date marking, batch stamping and unit pricing. Labelling which gives adequate information on ingredients weight and other relevant features will be required.

12 Provide for regular testing of products in analytical laboratories, particularly where the health or safety of consumers is at risk. Where goods fail to meet standards or are faulty, effective provisions will apply for the prohibition of import or supply, or notification and recall of such goods.

13 Ensure that consumers are provided with all information about products or services which is essential for informed decision-making, including the existence of potentially harmful substances, fuel or energy efficiency, restrictions on use, capacity, standards rating, and installation and component replacement costs.
Imports and exports
14 Deny entry or exit of goods if they violate Australian standards.
15 Co-ordinate existing government agencies to-
a formulate motor vehicle standards and a motor vehicle recall code; and
b monitor the design and construction of motor vehicles in accordance with these.

Recall
16 Take comprehensive and co-ordinated action in conjunction with the states and territories, where possible, to prohibit the supply and provide for the recall of hazardous products.

E Consumer Education
17 In consultation with the states and territories, seek the inclusion of consumer education in the curriculum at all levels of formal education.
18 Devise programmes for general community education on consumer issues, including legal rights. Such programmes will be promoted through a variety of channels including adult education and the popular media. Special programmes will be devised for non-English speaking groups, low income earners and others who experience difficulties in their role as consumers.
19 Require government departments and instrumentalities to prepare and provide full information to consumers regarding their activities and the services they provide.
20 Establish a flexible Federal programme in co-ordination with the states and territories to establish shop-front consumer information centres by—
a providing financial and material assistance to local councils or community action groups or committees;
b encouraging the inclusion of such shopfront centres in major shopping centres;
c taking special steps to safeguard the interests of rural consumers, both in respect of prices and range and quality of goods and services available; and
d investigate the establishment of a national product information bank.
21 Provide financial and other assistance to consumer groups to facilitate their efforts to increase awareness of consumer rights and responsibilities, to encourage research and the dissemination of information which assists consumers to exercise choices effectively, and to enable consumer viewpoints to be represented to government tribunals, courts and industry.
F Consumer Participation

22 Give consumer representatives direct and effective representation in governmental decision-making.
23 Provide a system of legal aid to ensure ready and equal access to various tribunals on issues affecting consumers.
24 Increase funding for AFCO to enable it to co-ordinate effectively the activities of various consumer organisations in Australia.

G Food Standards

25 Enact, in consultation with the states and territories, a National Food Act to obtain uniform food standards including—
   a quality and performance standards;
   b date marking and unit pricing;
   c adequate labelling standards, particularly in relation to ingredients, nutritional value, storage and weight; and
   d frozen and refrigerated products to indicate deterioration by temperature and age.
26 In co-operation with the states and territories work for the establishment of a preventive National Nutrition Policy.

H Packaging and Labelling

27 Establish in consultation with the states and territories, consumer interests and the industries affected, uniform codes and standards for the packaging, labelling and advertising of consumer goods.
28 Ensure that labelling is effectively informative and where necessary it is provided also in languages other than English.
29 Ensure that labels are not too technical to be of interest and help consumers.
30 Prevent deceptive, wasteful or environmentally destructive packaging.

I Housing

31 Encourage state and territory governments to simplify and standardise lease documents; co-ordinate efforts to update and improve landlord and tenant legislation and ensure that homeowners are protected from unscrupulous building contractors.
J Consumer Information

32 Establish an Information and Data Centre to collect and analyse data on deaths and injuries associated with consumer products.
33 Disseminate information about packaging, unsatisfactory labelling and practicable means of overcoming these practices.
34 Commission papers, organise seminars, prepare films and other materials including television programmes which can help with consumer education. Particular attention will be paid to people from a non Anglo-Saxon background and their information needs.
6 Defence

A Introduction

A prerequisite for the national security, independence and peaceful development of any nation is the capacity for self-defence. For this purpose it is necessary for Australia to have the capability to defend its maritime approaches and the security of its overseas trade.

Australia’s national security policy must be to ensure its territorial security, the security of overseas trade, and peaceful development as an independent nation. The primary objective is the defence of its territories and maritime approaches. Whilst defence and foreign policies must be based on the conviction that war can and must be prevented, and that Australia has a part to play in its prevention, nevertheless, a strong and relevant defence must be maintained and be so effective as to demonstrate beyond all doubt Australia’s intention to defend itself and its vital interests.

Labor believes that all treaties and agreements on defence matters to which Australia is party must be consistent with the requirements of the UN Charter.

In all treaties and agreements to which Australia is party, Australia’s right to determine its own position on questions of war and peace must be maintained.

All Australians within Australian territory are entitled to the protection of the Australian Defence Force. No concentration of defence effort in particular areas shall leave the situation of those in other parts of Australia’s national territory neglected.

The defence capability of the nation depends primarily upon national development and the resulting capacity to manufacture, procure and maintain supplies and materials.

Labor is opposed to the private traffic of arms, to private military training and to the use of armed forces in industrial disputes.
B Self-reliance and National Defence

Australians must have confidence in the measures taken by government to maintain national security on their behalf. Labor believes that such confidence will emerge from the widest possible national awareness of Australia's strategic circumstances and defence policy objectives.

To encourage the development of this national awareness on defence objectives and the methods of implementing them, a Labor government will prepare a Green Paper on Australia's defence. The Green Paper will set out in detail the major strategic, political, military, technological, financial, defence industry and other considerations which shape the development of national defence.

Labor's defence policy is in essence to develop a more self-reliant strategic posture based on the principle of developing independent national defence capabilities to deter conventional attack on Australian territory.

Deterring a conventional attack would include the maintenance of forces sufficient to defeat any attack by a neighbouring power. It would also require any greater power to deploy so much of its forces for such a length of time that its losses would be out of proportion to any expected gain.

Such a defence posture will include—

1 The development of plans for the defence of Australia based on a thorough understanding of the requirements of Australian conditions, strategic needs and resources, with relevance to Australian national security interests being the over-riding factor in assessing the impact of compatibility with allied practices in developing the force structure.

2 Reliable intelligence on military/political developments in Australia's region and maintenance of comprehensive surveillance of Australia's approaches.

3 The encouragement of States in the region to realise security through arms control arrangements.

4 The maintenance of standing forces competent to deal with more limited threats and minor incursions on Australian sovereignty.

5 Provision for the mobilisation of reserves in sufficient time to meet a major attack.

6 The maximisation of the value of limited resources. Labor will ensure that the procurement of new weapon systems is closely related to operational doctrines based on a posture of greater defence self-reliance and independence.

7 Labor supports regular consultations between the Australian Government, the states and territories concerning the siting or extension of defence installations.
C The Australian Defence Force

Labor believes that all forces must be made up of volunteers. In the national interest, however, the right is to be retained to raise a conscripted force in the event of an attack against Australia.

Labor will—

8 Maintain a properly balanced, flexible defence force equipped with weapons, transport and logistic systems appropriate to its task.

9 Labor will develop an Australian Defence Force functional command structure with a decentralised organisation.

10 Maintain the regular force at a viable level whilst maintaining the citizen reserve as an essential force and as a means for training those with the wider skills required for general mobilisation.

11 Ensure that all sections of the civilian population accept the Forces’ role through the latter’s non-involvement in any civil unrest including industrial disputes.

12 Maintain the capability of deploying appropriate elements of the force as part of a U.N. peacekeeping force.

13 Oppose a nuclear component for the Australian Defence Force.

14 Establish a Coastal Protection Force within the Defence Force, equipped and organized with air and sea capability to police in peacetime Australia’s maritime zone against activities such as drug smuggling and illegal fishing.

D Defence, Mobilisation and Procurement

Labor believes that, to achieve the objective of a secure Australia, defence supplies and equipment should, where practicable, be procured within Australia.

Labor will—

15 Encourage Australian industries capable of conversion to defence production in time of war under an overall industrial mobilisation plan.

16 Ensure that procurement which of necessity is placed abroad, is obtained under contracts affording the maximum offset purchasing advantages to Australia, the maximum scope for manufacture under licence within Australia and the maximum opportunity for technology transfer.

17 In pursuit of the material development of the nation, and consistent with Labor’s urban and regional development and transport policies, develop ports, airfields, railways and roads which will contribute to the mobility of the defence forces as well as to the material development of the nation.

18 Ensure exclusive government control over and the strictest regulation of the manufacture and export of arms and munitions and maximise public ownership in industries manufacturing arms and munitions.
19 Ensure that the Australian government has the powers to adequately control major strategic materials and resources.

E Conditions of Service

20 Recognising that service in the regular Defence Force constitutes one of the nation’s essential occupations and insisting upon the highest of professional standards, Labor asserts that full and continuing attention must be paid to all aspects of conditions of service in order to attract and to retain all volunteer defence services.

21 Conditions of service of members must maintain parity with conditions of civilians of the same age and qualifications and must allow for the inherent disadvantages and special requirements of the profession of arms. Labor will provide war service homes, repatriation health benefits, civilian rehabilitation training, scholarships for their children and retirement and resettlement allowances for members of the forces.

22 Easier access must be given to the Court-Martial Appeals Tribunal and the Tribunal incorporated in the Federal Court of Australia.

23 Comprehensive and self-contained Australian military law must apply to Australian forces serving both inside and outside Australia, without precluding liability to local civil law.

24 The role of Military Ombudsman is to be developed and strengthened and the Office of the Defence Force Advocate is to be incorporated within it.

25 Defence Force pay and conditions to be fixed on a similar basis to the public service.

26 Serving personnel should have the right to form and be members of associations in respect to their pay and conditions.

F Civil Defence and Natural Disasters Organisations

27 Labor recognises that Civil Defence is an integral element of a national defence posture. Under Labor the Australian government will, through the Natural Disasters Organisation, aid and supplement the states Civil Defence and Emergency Services. The Civil Defence Service should be able to buy specialist equipment for its own use if the availability of defence equipment during disasters cannot be guaranteed.
7 The Economy

A Introduction

Labor believes the ultimate aim of economic policy is to promote the well-being of the people. In this regard reference must be made not only to national income and production, but also to the composition of production, the social and physical environment in which it is produced, the division of income between the people and the distribution of economic power. Accordingly, Labor's key objectives are—

The restoration and maintenance of full employment. Denial of employment represents both a denial of the right to share equitably in the nation's resources and to achieve a dignified role in society.

The achievement of a rate of economic growth which is as strong and sustained as is consistent with protection of the environment, balanced development of our industries and regions and prevention of increased foreign ownership and control of our industries. Labor is aware that only by means of faster growth can real incomes be increased more rapidly and employment opportunities created in sufficient numbers to restore full employment, but knows also from past experience that uncontrolled growth can cause considerable damage.

The minimisation of inflation. Labor is aware that high inflation damages the economic and social fabric of the nation and must be prevented.

The redistribution of income, wealth and economic power; such measures are necessary to ensure both a greater degree of social and economic equality and that important economic decisions are made through democratic processes rather than remaining the prerogative of private economic interest.

Labor recognises that achievement of these objectives will be a difficult task in present and likely future circumstances of the world economy. However, Australia with considerable energy and mineral resources is better placed than most countries to withstand these problems.
Despite these advantages, Australia's economic performance has clearly deteriorated under the Conservative government and the economy is now in deep recession. The burden of this deterioration has been borne by those least able to bear it, through increased unemployment, reduced living standards for low and middle income earners, and continuing cut-backs in community services whilst concurrently, economic power has been concentrated in fewer hands and transnational corporations have become increasingly dominant.

Such developments amply demonstrate the failure of the Conservative government's economic policies to fulfil the aspirations of the Australian people. Nor will they ever do so because of the inequitable principles on which they are based, the entrenched interests they seek to protect, their neglect of the critical role of public sector investment and because their reliance on unemployment for inflation control means that economic recovery must always be stifled by contractionary measures.

Accordingly, Labor is convinced that market forces of themselves will not create the environment necessary to achieve our objectives. Further, the experience of recent years in this and many other western economies shows that conventional monetary and fiscal policies alone cannot achieve our objectives.

Labor believes that a dramatic change is required in the direction of economic policy, with new methods and programmes, if we are to solve our deep-seated economic problems. In particular, there can be no solution to Australia's economic problems unless the national government establishes the framework within which sustained, socially desirable development can occur.

A national Labor government would seek to chart a new course for development of the Australian economy based on use of methods other than unemployment for inflation control, budgetary and monetary reforms to stimulate economic growth, maximising Australian ownership and control of productive enterprises, carefully planned public sector investment designed to balance industry and social infrastructure demands, maintenance of a diversified industrial base and balanced national economy, and democratic decision making in the public and private sectors.

The achievement of our objectives therefore requires a national economic and social strategy. Such a strategy must involve an expanded interventionist role by government through the processes of economic planning and specific industry, manpower and regional policies.

As part of this planning process, Labor will seek, in consultation with the trade union movement, employers, consumers and the states and territories, to achieve agreement on priorities for allocation of resources into areas of the economy which will promote economically, socially and environmentally appropriate forms of development.
Labor will also, in consultation with the trade union movement and employers, pursue a prices and incomes policy based upon the premise that major claims on the community's resources should be subject to considerations of the public interest, and that the effective implementation of such a policy provides the best chance of a sustained, non-inflationary economic recovery.

While encouraging individual enterprise and incentive, the pursuit of Labor's objectives will involve the use of fiscal and other policies particularly directed to ensuring the creation of greater equity for all. In this respect, Labor's philosophy requires that taxation shall be progressive in its impact and shall not be optional for a privileged minority. Labor will be committed to the elimination of the tax avoidance industry.

Labor's commitment to increasing Australian ownership and control of our economy requires active encouragement of investment by Australians and rigorous appraisal of investment proposals from overseas.

Australian research and development must be expanded so that we cease to be mainly residual users of overseas technological developments within a pattern determined by interests based outside this country.

With the international economic system in disarray Australia should be making a constructive contribution to the evolution of a more equitable and efficient international economic order. Labor is committed to co-operating with like-minded countries in reform of the floundering international economic institutions and arrangements, so as to remove barriers to effective economic co-operation between nations, strengthen international control of transnational corporations and support self-reliant development in less developed countries.

B Short Term Policy

On attaining government, Labor will immediately begin to implement economic policies designed to enable a substantial and sustained growth in employment and living standards, to control inflation and to redistribute income and wealth. Achievement of these objectives will require an integrated policy package, the major elements of which will be to—

1. Adopt selective, stimulatory budgetary and monetary policies to promote the growth of output and employment, and increased living standards.

2. Ensure that these policies, some of which will have a notably anti-inflationary effect, also enhance equity in the community by concentrating their benefits on low and middle income earners.

3. With the understanding and co-operation of the trade union movement, develop and implement a comprehensive, equitable prices and incomes policy, encompassing prices, wages, non-wage incomes, the social wage and taxation reform, which policy will enable
sustained economic and employment growth to occur without generating undue inflationary pressures, and which will achieve a more equitable distribution of our national income and wealth, the maintenance of real wages and the passing on of the benefits of increases in productivity.

4 Maintain and extend essential regulatory power available to the Australian government for control of interest rates and lending policies of financial corporations.

5 Retain a central role for government in the determination of the exchange rate and implement effective controls over foreign capital inflows and the operations of transnational corporations within Australia.

6 Implement substantial taxation reforms.

7 Revitalise the public sector by—
   a ensuring adequate resources are made available to it to perform its important tasks;
   b restructuring priorities;
   c expanding the scope of public enterprises; and
   d improving the efficiency of its operations.

C Longer Term Planning

An economic and social strategy involving co-ordinated planning is required for the achievement of national objectives. Therefore, Labor will provide a clearly defined framework within which the various economic interests in Australia will be able to operate more effectively.

Market forces alone will not enable achievement of national objectives.

The working of the market is severely flawed by the concentration of economic power, inequity in the distribution of wealth and income, and the failure of prices to adequately reflect the full social and economic consequences of productive activity. Quite apart from the pursuit of regressive goals the hasty introduction of arbitrary and inconsistent policies has contributed to the economic uncertainty of recent years.

A Labor government will therefore prepare and periodically revise a national strategy incorporating estimates of the impact of public policies on the Australian economy and forecasts of factors outside government control (such as the international economic environment).

The national strategy will provide the basis for more detailed public sector planning. All departmental and statutory authority activity will be evaluated in terms of its effectiveness in contributing to high priority goals, providing a sound basis for increasing or reducing financial allocations. A concerted attempt will be made to bring greater consistency and predictability into public sector management.

A central element in the national strategy and in public sector
planning will be balanced investment allocation. A Labor government will ensure that sufficient weight is given to social infrastructure and investment, public and private, in productive activity. The national strategy will stand at the apex of the co-ordination structure of consultation and negotiation. It will involve representatives of the trade union movement, business, consumers and the states and territories. In this way the national strategy will both be informed by, and inform the process taking place throughout the economy.

The national strategy will provide essential background and assistance in regional planning. Regional planning should, however, be based in and accountable to, the regional community through the involvement of federal, state, territory and local governments and other community representatives as appropriate.

The national strategy will provide a sound basis for labour force planning, enabling educational and training authorities to meet the aspirations of people for the development of their capacities and to equip the workforce for occupations in increasing demand.

Means of implementation.
An Economic Planning Advisory Council will be established which will actively participate in the process of preparing a national strategy through regular consultations. The membership will be representative of trade unions, business, consumers, farmers and the states and will be served by a professional secretariat servicing the consultative and negotiation bodies established by the Labor government.

Through the responsible Minister, the Economic Planning Advisory council will report to and consult with the Cabinet which will have the ultimate responsibility for determining the national strategy.

Community participation in the planning process will be encouraged by publicising information relating to the plan and seeking feedback from the public. Widespread participation in the planning process will be ensured by the co-ordination process of consultation and negotiation and Labor will also encourage public discussion and preparation of papers on the wide range of changes in the economy and society which can be expected in the long term.

A planning division will be established within the public service with the tasks of preparing forecasts, co-ordinating strategy development under the direction of Cabinet, and of monitoring implementation. The forward estimating capacity of departments and instrumentalities will be strengthened where necessary.

There are widespread deficiencies in the availability of information essential for responsible policy making. Therefore, the Australian Bureau of Statistics will be strengthened to ensure that all relevant statistical information for planning is collected and published promptly. While recognising the importance of corporate confidentiality, improvements will be made to the flow of information, including investment plans, between business and government.
To ensure effective implementation of the national strategy Labor will, where necessary, intervene on both the demand and supply sides of the economy and use instruments some of which conservative parties, for doctrinaire reasons, refuse to use. These instruments include consultation, regulation, government procurement programmes, public-private sector competition, joint public-private sector ownership and public ownership, including nationalisation. Encouragement will be given to producer and consumer co-operatives including workers’ co-operatives. An inquiry will be instituted into the means of introducing into Australia appropriate forms of economic democracy, for example, more extensive employee participation in ownership and decision-making.

D Taxation

Labor recognises that the tax system has become grossly inequitable since 1975. There has been a deliberate reduction in the progressivity of the tax schedule, rampant tax avoidance and evasion, provision of tax concessions to wealthy groups, and increasing reliance on indirect taxation.

A Labor government will change this situation by basing the tax system firmly on the principle of ability to pay, on the need for an adequate minimum standard of living and on the desirability of reducing inequality in the Australian community.

To achieve these purposes Labor will—

8 Maintain the individual as the tax unit for personal income tax purposes, and place emphasis on the social security system rather than the tax system for further family assistance.

9 Increase the progressivity of the personal income tax system.

10 Regularly adjust the income tax schedule and zone allowances to take account of the effects of inflation.

11 Smash the tax avoidance industry and minimise tax evasion by—
   a providing sufficient staff and resources to the Taxation Office;
   b taking all necessary administrative actions;
   c using all available legislative powers, including the retrospective application of legislation against blatant tax avoidance schemes; and
   d application by an effective tax on realised capital gains and profits by taking all necessary legislative and administrative action to ensure the strict enforcement of the existing tax on speculative capital gains and profit-making schemes contained in section 26(a) of the Income Tax Amendment Act, thereby requiring speculators and tax avoiders to pay tax presently being avoided.

12 Reduce the relative incidence of indirect taxation.

13 Ensure that corporations bear their fair share of tax on income earned in Australia and overseas, including by eliminating any corporate tax loopholes and any unwarranted tax concessions and
by applying an effective resource rent tax on highly profitable resource-based projects.

14 Conduct a complete review of the incidence of taxation to ensure that the tax burden is borne equitably.

15 Remove the provision which applies sales tax to the freight component of goods.

E Intergovernmental Financial Relations

Effective provision of community services requires concerted action by all three levels of government. Yet there is a severe imbalance between their resources and their responsibilities. The federal financial arrangements introduced by the Conservative government have intensified the conflict caused by these disparities. Therefore a Labor government will—

16 Ensure that lower income PAYE taxpayers who accumulate lump sum benefits are not subject to punitive levels of direct taxation disproportionate to their normal liabilities.

17 Provide untied revenue assistance to the states, territories and local government through a system of general revenue sharing which guarantees to the states, territories and to local government a pre-determined percentage of Commonwealth budget revenue, such a percentage to be determined after consultation between the Commonwealth, states, territories and local governments, at regular intervals.

18 Provide specific purpose grants to the states and territories to fund priority programmes in the areas of health, education, public housing, roads and transport.

19 Maintain the existing role of the Commonwealth Grants Commission in advising on equalisation procedures, thereby ensuring that financially disadvantaged governments are able to provide a satisfactory level of public services without undue taxation effort.

20 Ensure that state, territory and local governments and their authorities are able to maintain and steadily improve community infrastructure through adequate capital grants and borrowing approvals.

21 Increase the effectiveness of the Commonwealth in conjunction with the states in evaluating, through the Loans Council, major investment proposals from all levels of government and their instrumentalities.

22 Encourage the establishment of state central borrowing authorities to borrow on behalf of state, territory and local government authorities subject to Loans Council approval.

23 Co-operate with the other levels of government in setting guidelines for joint programmes for which the Australian government provides finance.
F  Foreign Ownership and Investment

While recognising the contribution of the supply of capital, technology and knowhow by foreign corporations to the postwar development of the Australian economy, Labor is greatly concerned at the extent to which our industry is foreign-controlled, and the likelihood that this foreign control of our economy will increase further unless preventative action is taken.

Labor believes that increasing foreign domination of the Australian economy by foreign-based transnational corporations endangers our national sovereignty and places our resources, technology and the leading role in determining the future pattern of development, at the control of corporations whose interests are not necessarily in accord with the best interests of our nation. Furthermore, their international scale and enormous economic power impinge upon the effectiveness of the traditional tools of government economic management, and indeed reduce the authority of the elected government over the national economy.

Accordingly, a Labor Government will—

24  Maintain the existing restrictions on foreign entry to strategic sectors of the economy including banking and reverse the current trend towards increased foreign domination of the Australian economy, by seeking increased Australian ownership and control of resources and enterprises and by carefully regulating foreign investment and short-term financial flows.

25  Establish clear guidelines for foreign investment to ensure that all proposals have net economic benefits before they are approved; permitting foreign investment only when it introduces beneficial new technology and expertise, increases employment, expands taxable capacity and/or otherwise shows itself to be in Australia's national interest.

26  Expand the functions of the Foreign Investment Review Board and establish clear guidelines for the entry and expansion of foreign enterprises in Australia, by taking steps to—
   a  require majority Australian participation in new projects in all sectors including by public equity, for example, through the Resource Development Fund;
   b  reserve for Australian ownership and control key sectors necessary to ensure achievement of economic goals and/or preservation of the national identity and culture;
   c  require foreign enterprises operating in Australia to abide by an appropriate code of conduct including providing the Foreign Investment Review Board with all necessary information for effective monitoring of transnational corporations in Australia including intra-company transactions and transfer practices, research and development policies, sources of finance, and employment level policies; and
control the extent to which foreign enterprises can fund new or expanded operations by borrowings on the Australian capital market.

27 Include trade union representation on the Foreign Investment Review Board.

28 In obtaining the required amount of capital from overseas, encourage an increasing portion of capital inflow on the basis of loan capital rather than equity capital.

29 Take whatever action is within its power to prevent the continuance of activities of transnational corporations that are against the interests of the Australian public, and if effective action is not possible through lack of legal authority, seek to obtain that authority.

30 Supply information gathered by the Foreign Investment Review Board to the relevant trade unions, Australian companies, consumer groups and research organisations in Australia as well as to all relevant international organisations such as the United Nations Centre on Trans-National Corporations, the International Labour Organisation, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, and appropriate international trade union organisations.

31 Support the establishment within the United Nations of a comprehensive international information system on transnational corporations, and the development and adoption of an effective international code of conduct for transnational corporations that is legally enforceable and endowed with effective complaints and supervisory machinery.

32 Require that the operation of Australian firms investing and functioning abroad be consistent with—
   a the government's foreign policy;
   b the national strategy; and
   c the government's policies on international development and the rights of employees.

G Trade and International Development

Australia's prosperity depends substantially on international trade. Patterns of production in the various countries of the world offer opportunities for trade which would improve economic well-being both in this country and in those countries with which we trade. Therefore a Labor government will—

33 Seek graduated liberalisation of world trade through mutually beneficial reductions in barriers to trade in a context where an appropriate industry development policy is in place in Australia and in circumstances where the advantages of trade are consistent with our national objectives.

34 Recognising that agricultural and mineral exports alone will not sustain Australia's economy, seek to increase the contribution to overseas earnings of our manufacturing, service and information industries.
35 Encourage active pursuit of new markets and the use of new approaches to old markets by offering subsidies for market development.

36 Improve government machinery in co-operation with the private sector to facilitate trade with new markets, small markets, and other governments and their instrumentalities.

In view of the global extremes of wealth and poverty and of the entrenched injustice in the present international economic system, and recognising that the well-being and security of all peoples depends on changing that system, a Labor government will use the Report of the International Commission on Development Issues (the Brandt Report) as the basis for preparing a strategy for Australian participation in reform of the international economic system. This strategy will include-

a increasing overseas development assistance with the aim of achieving community support for the target of 0.7 per cent of GNP within five years of attaining office;

b part of this increased aid will be used for supporting multilateral and approved non-government aid agencies; and

c for encouraging agricultural and energy research on technologies suitable for use in developing countries.

37 Participating sympathetically in global negotiations at the United Nations for restructuring of the international economic system by, for example-

a pressing for reform of the control and policies of the international financial institutions to improve the effectiveness and equity of their operations; and

b co-operating with developing countries in plans to increase the equity and efficiency of international commodity markets.

7 The Economy - Resolution

Labor opposes the Campbell Inquiry’s recommendation to abolish the requirement that certain financial institutions hold a share of their assets in government securities, and will take the necessary steps to ensure that the Labor government has sufficient control over the share of the country’s savings required for funding its priority programmes.
8 Education

A Objectives

Labor believes education should—
Promote love of freedom and justice and develop critical perception, ability to choose intelligently, capacity for self-government and a sense of social responsibility.
Be recognised as vital and justified for its contribution to individual development and to human relationships, rather than being regarded solely as an adjunct to the economic system.
Instil belief in the equal rights of all people and respect for their essential humanity, irrespective of ethnic origin, colour, sex, age, creed or political belief.
Ensure free and harmonious development of intellect, physique, emotions and abilities, to the fullness of individual capacity.
Be seen as a life-long process so that, while schooling will continue to be normally the province of the young, opportunities should be available for individuals to undertake their secondary or continuing education at any stage in their adult lives.
Not be seen as the responsibility of the formal education systems alone, so that Government strategies in education should be aimed at developing a co-ordinated network of educational facilities responsive to community and individual needs and committed to diversity, innovation, equality of opportunity, accessibility, the maximum devolution of responsibility and the enhancement of the quality of life of all people.
In Australia, be designed to enable people to cope with the total environment in the broadest possible way, including the recognition of Australia’s place within the world community and the economic and social impact of developing countries on Australian patterns and attitudes in the future, and that Governments must ensure the provision of compulsory education of the highest standard and provide a universal, free, secular system of education open to all citizens.
Provide financial assistance to enable diversity of education provision, in keeping with the principle of equality of educational opportunity and the principle of need established through the various Commissions as created from time to time and the principle of positive discrimination for the disadvantaged.

Recognise the growing importance of leisure and the necessity to provide both facilities and training for recreational and cultural activities. Government must acknowledge the value of libraries, museums, art galleries and the like as repositories of much of the cultural and intellectual attainments of mankind, and should aim at developing a co-ordinated network of such facilities responsive to community and individual needs; and that the community and parents have the right to be informed and consulted about educational activities and programmes; and that everyone has the right to education.

B The Role of the Australian Government

Accordingly, a Labor government will—

1 In co-operation with state and territory governments, provide and operate educational services which shall be available to all without charge.

2 Provide benefits to students, maintain a liaison with the states and territories and with other countries on matters relating to education, undertake research relating to education, and conduct educational services.

3 In its provision of benefits to students, ensure that there is a positive discrimination in favour of disadvantaged groups.

4 In co-operation with the states and territories, accept responsibility on a national basis for achievement of acceptable standards in all schools and post-secondary educational institutions, including the maintenance of full funding to Colleges of Advanced Education and Universities.

5 Be responsive to the special problem of youth unemployment and implement such measures as may be undertaken through the various sectors of education to meet the problem.

6 Be mindful of the problem of redundancy of skills which is associated with the introduction of some new technology, and take action through the education sectors to combat the problem.

7 Assist in areas of need by providing financial assistance through independent statutory commissions which may be established from time to time, having the obligation to report publicly.

8 In determining the membership of all Commissions, have regard to the principle of professional and community representation.
C Universities and Colleges of Advanced Education.

9 A Labor government will re-affirm the independence of the Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) and will seek from the TEC a new assessment of needs in higher education and recommendations as to the funds which should be made available to meet those needs.

10 In making its recommendations, the TEC will have regard to—
   a the need to increase the levels of participation in higher education in both undergraduate and post-graduate studies;
   b the need to safeguard and improve standards of teaching;
   c the need to increase the capacity of higher education to undertake appropriate research;
   d the need to overcome backlogs in the provision of equipment and facilities;
   e the need to support the extension to the community of the expertise, services and facilities of higher education; and
   f the funding of higher education on a triennial basis.

11 In regard to participation in higher education, a Labor government will require higher education institutions to undertake positive measures with a view to—
   a increasing the proportion of school leavers from disadvantaged backgrounds and isolated areas who participate in higher education;
   b increasing the participation in higher education of persons from disadvantaged groups such as Aborigines and migrants;
   c achieving equal opportunities and expanded roles for women in and through higher education;
   d expanding access, recognition and support for members of the workforce seeking to upgrade their skills and qualifications within their fields of work; and
   e expanding opportunities for later life entry.

12 a recognising the importance of the autonomy of tertiary institutions, a Labor government will, in consultation with the states and territories and the tertiary institutions examine ways of expanding the role of the Academic Salaries Tribunal in relation to the terms and conditions of employment of academic staff;
   b an appropriate appeals mechanism against decisions of the Academic Salaries Tribunal will be established and the provision for parliamentary disallowance of Tribunal decisions will be removed;
   c the Academic Salaries Tribunal will be empowered to determine the levels of remuneration paid under post-graduate awards; and
   d compliance with Academic Salaries Tribunal decisions will be a condition of Commonwealth funding.

13 Increased funds for pure and applied research in Universities and Colleges of Advanced Education will be made available through the Australian Research Grants Committee and other research funding bodies—
a educational research concerning higher education will be funded through the Tertiary Education Commission; and
b special research institutes focusing on matters of national significance will be supported.

D Technical and Further Education (TAFE)

A Labor government will—

14 Review the arrangements and levels of funding for TAFE with a view to—
a clearly defining the respective responsibilities of the Commonwealth and the states;
b establishing in co-operation with the states triennial funding programmes to overcome capital deficiencies;
c meeting the funding obligations arising from Commonwealth programmes and initiatives in TAFE;
d improving the quality and effectiveness of TAFE programmes; and
e strengthening the relationships between TAFE and employers, unions and community agencies and with other sectors of education.

15 Negotiate with employers and unions for expanded and more effective industry participation in—
a work release for employees;
b training of TAFE students; and
c secondment of TAFE teachers to industry for industrial experience with particular emphasis on industries with new technologies.

16 Seek a report and recommendations from the TAFE Council with a view to—
a implementing specific initiatives to increase the entry of women and girls into trades and non-traditional occupations; and
b strengthening the role of TAFE in providing second chance and continuing education.

E Vocational Training

17 Require the Tertiary Education Commission to review continually, within the context of the overall educational process, the relationship between vocational training and manpower needs. This will take place in consultation with employers and trade unions, state and territory government departments, and professional and community institutions.

Recommendations will be made to the Australian, state and territory government departments on training and manpower requirements in all professions and trades, and will take into account the need for women to have access to all forms of vocational training.
18 Encourage the implementation of ILO Convention 140 in respect of paid study leave, with the intention of securing its early ratification.

F Primary and Secondary Education

19 A Labor government will provide funds to schools in accordance with the 'needs' principle.

20 It will maintain an independent Schools Commission and require it to—
   a examine and report on the needs of students in government and non-government schools and the measures which should be taken to meet those needs; and
   b make recommendations as to allocations of available funds.

21 In making its recommendations the Schools Commission will have regard to—
   a the primary obligation of governments to provide and maintain government school systems of the highest standard open to all children and the need for an adequate Commonwealth contribution towards this objective;
   b the provision of funds to assist with the achievement of acceptable resource standards in all schools;
   c the right of all Australian children to acquire an education necessary for the widest participation in Australian society;
   d the promotion of equal educational opportunities for all Australian children;
   e when assessing the needs of students, the circumstances of the community of which the students are a part;
   f the requirement that Commonwealth funds be available only to those non-government schools whose total private and public resources do not exceed the resources of comparable government schools;
   g the necessity for adequate consultation between government and non-government school authorities in the planning and provision of school facilities, so as to assess the impact of new schools on existing schools and so as to ensure the economic use of resources;
   h the requirement of full accountability in the use of public funds;
   i the provision of funds on a triennial basis;
   j the need to promote increased participation of parents, teachers and students in decision making at all levels of education; and
   k the need to ensure that systems and schools in receipt of Commonwealth funds pursue policies designed to combat bias and discrimination on the grounds of sex, race or ethnic background.

22 A Labor government will provide within the Schools Commission centres for curriculum development and school level education research.
23 Through the Schools Commission, a Labor government will—
(a) give priority to action designed to reduce educational disadvantages, in particular those due to socio-economic background;
(b) support programmes and initiatives to take account of the special needs of rural and isolated children;
(c) provide assistance to meet the needs of disabled children;
(d) provide development programmes for teachers and parents;
(e) support programmes to meet the special needs of ethnic groups and to promote understanding of cultural diversity; and
(f) support educational innovations.

24 A Labor government will seek a report and recommendations from the Schools Commission with a view to initiating action on the following matters—
(a) assistance, on a priority basis, to primary schools to develop programmes, within a broad curriculum framework to meet the needs of children not attaining desirable levels of achievement;
(b) assistance, on a priority basis, to secondary schools with low retention rates to restructure their curriculum and practices to better meet the needs of all their students;
(c) positive action to remove and counter sexist discrimination in curricula, teaching practice and organisation; and
(d) action to make available to all children studies in Aboriginal history, culture and language.

25 Through the Schools Commission, a Labor government will—
(a) promote the devolution of responsibility to the school level within a framework of general principles designed to ensure public accountability to safeguard democratic values and to achieve social equality;
(b) promote increased participation of parents, teachers and students in the control and operation of schools; and
(c) promote increased understanding and co-operation between the state systems and between the various sectors of education.

26 Corporal Punishment
Labor is opposed to corporal punishment in government and non-government schools.

27 ACT Schools System
Confirm the independence and representative basis of the ACT Schools Authority, especially in terms of staffing, while at the same time recognising the financial responsibility a Federal government has to maintain the Canberra schools system.

G Aboriginal Education

28 In Aboriginal Education, a Labor government will—
(a) upgrade the status of the National Aboriginal Education Committee and consult with it on all matters concerning aboriginal education;
b provide professional staff and other resources to support Aboriginal community schools;
c set specific targets for the training of Aboriginal teachers; and
d provide support for the use of Aboriginal languages in the education of Aboriginal children.

H Ethnic and Multi-cultural Education

29 A Labor government will—
a recognise the value of ethnic diversity within a framework of democratic values and of sexual and racial equality;
b recognise the special needs of ethnic minority groups;
c promote equality of opportunity across ethnic groups;
d provide special support for the teaching of ethnic languages; and provide access to transitional bilingual education programmes for children entering primary schools of high migrant concentrations;
e provide in major population centres opportunities for learning the language of ethnic minority groups;
f make provision for a diversified programme of English language teaching; and
g in all of the above, insist upon the maximum participation of ethnic communities in the development and implementation of policies.

I Student Finance

30 A Labor government will review the levels of allowances and conditions of eligibility of all education and training assistance schemes with a view to—
a increasing the levels of participation in post compulsory education; and
b increasing the equity and effectiveness of the schemes.
31 In particular, a Labor government will—
a provide post-secondary education without fees;
b review the allowances payable to disadvantaged students in upper secondary education in order to provide greater encouragement to disadvantaged students to continue their education;
c support special schemes of assistance to increase the participation of Aboriginal students and adults in furthering their education;
d support special schemes of assistance for isolated students and disabled people;
e maintain the Tertiary Education Assistance Scheme (TEAS) and index and increase the level of the benefit towards a real value comparable to its value when first introduced in 1974; review the conditions of eligibility, and reject any loans scheme as a replacement means of student financing.
f provide post graduate awards at levels of remuneration determined by the Academic Salaries Tribunal.
J Library Services

Assume responsibility for ensuring that information is available to the individual citizen. As libraries have an essential role in the acquisition, organisation, preservation and dissemination of information, it will, in conjunction with the states and territories, and in close consultation with the Education Commissions, be responsible for co-ordinating and encouraging library information services. The aims will be those of establishing standards, improving efficiency, and encouraging the widest possible use of, and access to, information in a variety of media.

K Adult Literacy

A Labor government will, in co-operation with the states and territories, fund and establish a nationwide campaign to combat adult illiteracy.

Education — Resolution

1 The ALP upholds the right of students to autonomous control of their students organisations and believes that students have the democratic right of decision-making within their unions and federated bodies with regard to revenue raising and expenditure, administration and policy.
2 Where governing bodies are statutory boards or like organisations, students and all employees should be represented on such bodies.
9 Employment

A Introduction

Unemployment is currently the most important problem facing the Australian community. Hundreds of thousands of Australians are being denied their right to a livelihood and the dignity, self-respect and opportunity for self-fulfilment through work, to which all members of the community must be entitled. The loss of human dignity and the poverty caused by unemployment are turning sectors of the Australian people against themselves and threatening the social fabric of Australian society. This waste of personal and economic resources prevents constructive economic management, undermines the basis of government finance and retards the development of society. Labor rejects the deliberate campaign of attributing the blame for unemployment and the associated costs to the unemployed themselves.

Labor is committed to the restoration and maintenance of full employment as a major policy goal. Labor will give the highest priority to measures designed to increase the supply of jobs and achieve an immediate reduction in levels of unemployment within a long term policy strategy aimed at creating employment opportunities for all who want to work.

Employment opportunities in Australia are being threatened and constrained by a number of factors. The deliberate policy of the Conservative government since the mid-1970's to reduce inflation by increasing unemployment has suppressed the level of economic activity, severely reduced job opportunities and led to a serious neglect of social needs. This has occurred in the context of a depressed international situation which has been exacerbated by the monetarist economic policies also pursued by other Conservative governments. The decline of traditional sources of industrial employment and the widespread introduction of labour-displacing technological processes are having important longer-term influences.
Labor is aware that, in the context of an increasingly interdependent and unstable world economic system, the pressures for fundamental structural change in the Australian economy, and the need to control related problems such as inflation, the attainment of full employment will be a difficult goal to achieve. It will require new initiatives and far-reaching change. Labor will consult with all sections of the community to ensure that the need for intervention and change is understood. Changes will be preceded by a process of negotiation with the parties affected directly and indirectly to ensure that these changes work in favour of the community with full recognition of the human and social problems involved and the need for assistance for those disadvantaged.

B Labour Market Planning

Labour market programmes should be developed and co-ordinated within a national planning framework.

1 A Labor government will establish an Australian Labour Office (ALO) as an essential element in developing a comprehensive and integrated work force strategy. The ALO will have responsibility for—
   a gathering detailed labour market data on a continuing basis;
   b undertaking extensive labour market forecasting; and
   c implementing and co-ordinating workforce programmes and advising on the development of these programmes, with particular emphasis on employment problems in specific regions.

C Policies for Improving Employment Opportunities

In the context of a national economic and social strategy, Labor will develop a comprehensive set of policies designed to move the Australian economy towards full employment and provide fulfilling opportunities for all those seeking work. These policies will include—

2 Macroeconomic policies designed to provide an immediate and sustained stimulus to the level of economic activity and employment.

3 Industrial development policies aimed at achieving a more diversified and efficient basis for a long-term regeneration of economic growth and secure job opportunities.

4 Specific employment-generating programmes developed in both private and public sectors of the economy on the basis of direct Federal expenditure, grants to the states and territories, assistance to local government bodies and other non-profit organisations, and
incentives to private enterprises. These programmes would be primarily directed at those disadvantaged groups and areas in the labour market which would benefit least from a general improvement in employment opportunities.

5 Special incentives to employers in the private sector for the employment of persons with special physical, social and economic disadvantages with appropriate safeguards to ensure that additional employment is being generated.

6 Measures to ensure employment levels and conditions are effectively accounted for by industries and enterprises which receive government assistance.

7 Programmes for improved education, housing, health, transport and other public services which give a high priority to employment generation.

8 Examination of, and consultation with unions and employers in relation to, changes to work structures in the traditional workplace, where these provide viable avenues for improving employment opportunities and allow greater flexibility in working patterns without detriment to the availability and conditions of full-time work; and encouragement for the development of legitimate new areas of work activity such as self-employment and worker co-operatives.

**D Labour Supply Policies**

A major concern in recent years has been the failure of the labour market in relation to the supply of skilled labour. This has resulted in a shortage of skilled labour in some areas, despite the high levels of unemployment and the oversupply of skilled labour in other areas. Australia’s opportunities for growth are largely dependent on the achievement of a more skilled workforce in the various sectors of the economy. A labour force without the appropriate skills or adaptability will act as a brake on economic growth and reduce the ability of many Australians to find suitable employment.

A Labor government would place considerable emphasis on the need to ensure that the Australian labour force has the necessary capacity to adjust to the emerging structure of job opportunities. Labor will ensure that substantially increased opportunities are available for training and retraining in the variety of skills required in a diversified economy.

**Apprenticeship and Skilled Workers**

9 A Labor government will seek to improve the supply of skilled workers as a matter of urgency and in close consultation with unions, employers, training authorities and state and territory governments by—

a examining ways of increasing the effectiveness of the apprenticeship system as the major source of skilled workers, and in particular, to consider—
Retraining
The ALP believes that training and retraining opportunities available to the labour force need to be substantially increased in order to improve the adaptability of the labour force in the face of continuing structural and technological change.

10 A Labor government will considerably extend the availability of training and retraining programmes for the unemployed, those already employed and threatened with redundancy, and those wishing to re-enter the labour force, with a view to achieving the OECD recommended retraining level of at least 1% of the labour force in each year.

Pre-Employment Training
11 A Labor government will be committed to the development of improved forms of vocational training in secondary schools, in technical colleges and in the community-based area, with a view to providing adequate labour force preparation for all young people who do not enter formal training courses or apprenticeships.
Basic Training
12 A Labor government will ensure that adequate attention is directed towards members of the labour force whose standards of literacy and/or numeracy are insufficient to enable them to obtain remunerative employment, with particular emphasis placed on appropriate programmes for the young who lack basic skills, and the teaching of English to migrant workers.

Assistance Measures
13 Labor will implement measures aimed at facilitating the geographical mobility of workers and the unemployed in areas where long-term employment prospects cannot be sustained.
14 Labor will ensure the development of an efficient, highly-trained and respected national employment service under the responsibility of the Australian Labour Office. The Commonwealth Employment Service will be expanded and improved to enable it to play a dynamic and effective role in providing flexible and sympathetic job placement services and in implementing, monitoring and developing labour market programmes.

Youth — Resolution

The ALP is deeply concerned about various aspects of the social and economic situation of young people in Australia today. Because of their relative powerlessness in society, young people are being made to bear an unfair brunt of the repressive economic policies of the present government. Labor believes that the needs of young people, especially between the ages of 15 and 18, are not being adequately catered for at present—
1 The existing range of educational and training opportunities is too narrow to provide young people with a variety of readily transferable employment and broad-based social skills for their working life.
2 An extremely high proportion of teenagers is not engaged in any form of education, training or employment.
3 The labour market situation confronting young job seekers continues to worsen as the availability of full-time job opportunities declines.
4 An increasing number of young people are suffering from extreme poverty and homelessness.
5 The structure and level of income support for young people is irrational and inadequate.
   Labor will implement a range of policies aimed at improving the position of young people in these areas. These policies will be relevant to, and will require the co-operation of, a number of departments including Social Security, Education and Employment and
Industrial Relations. In office, Labor will establish appropriate co-
ordinating mechanisms with the responsibility for overall implemen-
tation of policies affecting youth.
Specifically Labor will develop programs designed to—
6 Improve the overall relevance of secondary school curricula and
environment, by widening the range of options in order to meet the
needs of young people.
7 Increase the training and work experience options available in the
TAFE sector and the community-based sector.
8 Implement specific employment generating programmes to in-
crease the availability of full-time job opportunities for young people.
9 Increase the number of apprenticeships and other employment-
based training opportunities and extend apprenticeship training
within the public sector.
10 Rationalise and improve the existing structure of income and social
support available to young people not in full-time employment.
11 Aim to ensure that the accommodation needs of disadvantaged
young people living independently are adequately met.
12 Expand the provision of recreation and leisure activities available to
young people.
Young people are the foundation of Australia's future. They have
been grievously damaged by seven years of Fraser Government
neglect. Labor in Government will be committed to redressing this
situation and restoring to Australian youth the opportunities to which
it is entitled.
A Principles and Goals

_Labor believes that—_

Human ability to alter the environment has reached the stage where whole ecosystems have been destroyed and others threatened and where human lives and wellbeing are endangered by a variety of environmental changes.

Australia does not have to choose between environment and development.

One must be planned in the light of the other. Development is the utilisation of human and natural resources to advance the happiness and welfare of people. Environment is the total stock of natural and social resources available to humans and other species. Labor's goals are for sustained environmentally sound, humane development, planned within the constraints of, and in harmony with, the natural environment.

The Australian government should lead in creating environment policies and programmes in co-operation with state, territory and local government, involving communities in decisions affecting their environment. Environment objectives should not be compromised as a consequence of competition between states and regions for development.

The restoration of full employment and environmental protection are compatible, rather than conflicting, objectives.

All Australians have a right to a healthy and diverse environment and accordingly environmental policies should reinforce Labor's economic and social reforms and commitment to democratic socialism.

The costs of environmental planning and management and impact assessment should be normal internal costs of production and development.
Information, research and investigation programmes are vital components of environmental planning. Government suppression of information obstructs good environmental management and public control of the development process.

A Labor government will allow wider community access to information.

An active and informed independent voluntary environmental and conservation movement is essential for the achievement and implementation of effective environmental policies.

Many environmental problems will be minimised or avoided by better assessment and management of relevant technology. The impacts of technology and development proposals on the environment, social welfare, public health and employment, should be assessed together.

The national government, in conjunction with the states and territories, should develop and promote a national approach to the management and use of land. This should include urgent programmes to—

a. arrest and reverse desertification;
b. conserve diminishing wetlands and rainforests; and
c. co-ordinate and control the multiple use of forests, coastlines and water resources.

A significant number of Australian flora and fauna species are now endangered and this requires urgent and more effective measures to maintain and increase their populations including the maximisation of CSIRO (Wildlife Division) research funding by the implementation of a levy on the forest products and mining industries.

The quality of the work environment of Australians has been neglected to the point that many working people are exposed to hazardous environmental contaminants with little or no regulation or monitoring.

The Australian government should correct this situation and strengthen the ability of working people to press for a safer and cleaner work environment.

The Australian environment is being subjected to a rapidly growing number and quantity of environmental contaminants, including a wide range of synthetic substances whose biological effects have not been adequately assessed. This situation threatens the health of present and future generations of Australians and is a cause of the continued decline in the quality of our water resources and the air of our cities. It should be a major priority of the Australian government to reverse this trend.

Many non-renewable resources are wasted through inefficient industrial processes, unnecessary production of throwaway goods and containers, and planned obsolescence in manufacturing. The Australian government should seek the co-operation of the states, territories and industry to reverse these wasteful practices and to achieve the development and adoption of new techniques for waste management, including recycling and re-use of waste materials.
B Implementation

Department of Environment

A Labor government will—
1 Establish a department responsible for environment and conservation matters which would act directly and in conjunction with state and territory governments to—
   a administer and co-ordinate all legislation relating to environment and conservation;
   b integrate its environment policies and programmes with its economic, social, rural and urban and regional planning policies and programmes;
   c implement a National Conservation Strategy for Australia;
   d fund and co-ordinate research, development and demonstration projects related to the environment;
   e develop and implement policies for the survey, study, management and conservation of renewable resources, namely, water, soil, marine, air, flora and fauna;
   f assess the environmental implications of development proposals, technological and other innovations, and government policies;
   g manage and protect the Australian environment from environmental contamination, including contamination due to pesticides, motor vehicle emissions, industrial wastes and emissions and oil spills;
   h co-ordinate Australian programmes to co-operate with international organisations to manage and protect the environment and renewable resources; and
   i promote development of environment education and information programmes.

Environmental Assessment

2 Review and amend the Environment Protection (Impact of Proposals) Act 1974-75 to ensure that—
   a the environmental effects of activities involving the powers of the Australian government are assessed and measures for environmental management are recommended, where possible in terms of government strategies;
   b allow the Minister for Environment to initiate action under the Act to enable an Environmental Impact Study to be prepared on any development project deemed of national significance;
   c public participation in environmental assessment is facilitated and all reports and recommendations made public; and
   d provide means to enable individuals and groups to enforce the procedures of the Act.
3 Introduce centralised machinery to integrate and co-ordinate work of individual departments in the assessment of the impacts of development proposals and of relevant technology. This machinery will advise government as a whole and incorporate a process of public involvement including public hearings. This machinery will consider possible impacts of proposals on all areas of concern to government including environmental, public health, social welfare and employment aspects. It will therefore remove the need to create separate and overlapping assessment and public inquiry systems by individual Ministers and departments and increase the overall efficiency and co-ordination of government.

Environmental Survey

4 Work jointly with the states and territories, CSIRO and other organisations to establish an Environmental Survey of Australia.

National Conservation Strategy

5 Implement, in co-operation with the states and territories, a National Conservation Strategy to protect Australia's renewable natural resources by—
   a providing grants to the states and territories for conservation of areas of national significance and for environmental management programmes; and
   b investigating the effects of taxation, excise duties and other incentives to achieve the sustainable use of our renewable resources.

Soil and Water Conservation

6 Establish a National Soil and Water Conservation Programme to assist states and territories to—
   a arrest desertification, salination and erosion of land;
   b rehabilitate degraded land;
   c facilitate reforestation;
   d promote proper land use practices; and
   e carry out research into land management and rehabilitation and water quality improvements.

7 Extend the powers of the River Murray Commission to—
   a ensure the responsible management of the waters of the Murray-Darling River Basin, in terms of water quality and quantity, the protection of the River's wildlife resources and the satisfactory allocation and transfer of water rights; and
   b manage the Murray-Darling River system.
Coastal Management

8 Establish an Australian Coastline Management Programme to—
   a. co-ordinate and assist state, territory and local government in the
      management of the Australian coastal zone;
   b. direct funds to research in priority areas to assist with manage-
      ment goals; and
   c. provide funds for the purchase into public ownership and for the
      restoration of valuable alienated coastline.

Forests

9 Establish in co-operation with the states and territories a national
reafforestation programme to promote revegetation and reaffores-
tation of catchment areas, farmlands, abandoned cleared land as
well as in productive forestry areas.
10 Stop all programmes designed to replace native hardwood forests
with softwood plantations, and direct financial resources towards
the development of softwood in areas where sufficient land which is
already cleared of native forests is available.
11 Require an Environmental Impact Statement for any proposal to
export woodchips.
12 Recognise that rain forests are a valuable and diminishing world
and national resource, and promote—
   a. conservation of rain forests;
   b. new employment opportunities in areas dependent on rain forest
      timbers and provide states and territories with matching financial
      assistance to assist with the inevitable restructuring of regional
      economies currently involved with rain forest logging;
   c. expansion of areas of forests in National Parks to ensure protec-
      tion of all forest types and that key core areas are preserved; and
   d. management of logging to achieve a diminishing yield and to
      eventually phase out logging in rain forests and their dedication
      as National Parks or Nature Reserves.

National Parks and Wildlife

13 Implement programmes to increase to a minimum of 15% by 1988
the proportion of Aboriginal people engaged in Nature Conservation
activities including as officers in National Parks and Wildlife organi-
sations in the states and territories.
14 Promote the conservation of fauna, flora, landscapes and genetic
diversity by—
   a. legislating to strictly regulate interstate and international trade in
      endangered and protected species and their products;
   b. establishing a National Kangaroo Monitoring Study Group, in
      consultation with the states and territories, in order to provide a
planning basis for any commercial exploitation of kangaroos, and to ensure the conservation of kangaroos both on a national and regional basis;
c opposing mining or any other activity in National Parks which adversely affects the prime function of the park, i.e. nature conservation;
d a programme in association with the states and territories to attain standards of excellence in the conservation of flora, fauna, landscape and genetic resources within large ecologically viable reserves which meet internationally recognised criteria for security of tenure for national parks and like reserves;
e in association with the states and territories establish programmes to conserve fauna, flora, landscape and genetic resources in conjunction with other land use outside reserves; and
f taking action to conserve all species of marine mammals, and all other marine resources throughout the Australian economic zone.

In particular, seeking to—
i achieve an international ban on whaling;
ii develop and promote marine resource management policies which encourage a recovery of whale populations; and
iii to prohibit the import of whale products and products of other marine mammals or goods containing whale products and products of marine mammals.

Public Education and Participation

15 Facilitate public participation and awareness of the need to preserve the environment for sustainable development by—
a funding and expanding environment education and information programmes;
b re-establishing the environment education function in the Curriculum Development Centre; and
c upgrading financial and legal assistance to environment centres, other voluntary environment groups and trade unions engaged in environmental programmes and issues.

Energy Conservation

16 Develop and implement an integrated policy of energy development and conservation through the promotion of new social strategies and technologies for—
a the use for renewable resources for energy production; and
b the encouragement of energy efficiency in areas such as transport, industry and domestic consumption.
Antarctica

17 Oppose any development or exploitation of resources in the Antarctic Treaty Area which may cause damage to the marine or terrestrial environment.

State Co-operation

18 Work with state and territory governments and use Federal constitutional powers to achieve environmental legislation in all states and territories compatible with federal legislation and machinery, to allow operation of an integrated federal-state system of assessment and planning, efficiency of administration, and the avoidance of overlap.

South West Tasmania

19 a Oppose the construction of a hydroelectric power scheme on the Gordon or Franklin Rivers;
b Provide assistance to the Tasmanian government to enable it to diversify the means of electricity production; and
c Assist the Tasmanian government to expand Tasmania’s tourist industry in order to provide additional employment opportunities.

Great Barrier Reef

20 Declare immediately the entire Great Barrier Reef region, as designated by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act, as Marine Park to the low water mark and extend the present region covered by the Act north to the border with Papua New Guinea and also declare this additional area as Marine Park.

Sand Mining

21 Ensure that both Houses of Parliament must approve any licences issued which permit the export of mineral sands extracted from areas listed on the register of the National Estate (e.g. Fraser and Moreton Islands), and suspend any existing export licences permitting exports from such areas pending decision by Parliament. Furthermore the Party is totally opposed to sand mining on Moreton Island and supports the alternative management strategy for the island because of its environmental, economic and alternative employment appeal.
Environmental Contaminants Authority

22 Establish an Environmental Contaminants Authority responsible to the Minister for the Environment to use current constitutional powers, and in co-operation with the states and territories, industry and trade unions, to manage and protect the Australian environment from environmental contamination, including contamination due to pesticides, motor vehicle emissions, industrial wastes and emissions and oil spills and—
   a monitor the effects of environmental contaminants;
   b set basic standards to control environmental contaminants and pollution;
   c co-ordinate and fund research, monitoring and recording of air and water quality;
   d evaluate potential hazards of imported and domestically produced chemicals before their introduction into industry;
   e operate a compulsory and comprehensive licensing and regulatory scheme to control the use of hazardous chemicals in conjunction with the National Occupational Health & Safety Commission, and the National Institute of Environmental and Occupational Health;
   f establish standard procedures for transport and disposal of environmental contaminants; and
   g provide public information and advisory services to trade unions and community groups on environmental contamination and on contamination in the work place.

International Co-operation

23 Work with and assist other countries, particularly those in the Economic and social Commission for Asia in the pacific (ESCAP) region to ensure effective and co-ordinated approaches to national and regional problems, to help other countries manage their environments more effectively and to prevent the transfer of environmental problems to them because of the actions of Australians. In particular, provide increased financial assistance to support—
   a the United Nations Environment Programme;
   b the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme;
   c the ASEAN Environment Programme; and
   d programmes to rehabilitate the environment of Vietnam, and Kampuchea which have been degraded and destroyed by warfare, including by the use of herbicide sprays.
11 Foreign Affairs

A Introduction

The Australian Labor Party believes, as a democratic socialist and internationalist Party, that every nation should share in the skills of mankind and resources of the world according to its needs, and should contribute to those skills and resources according to its capacity.

Labor recognises that international inequality, oppression and conflict restrict the development of mankind and create human suffering. Given the ominous escalation of the nuclear arms race, international conflict now carries with it the threat of a universal catastrophe. Accordingly Labor is dedicated to work to eradicate the sources of injustice, to reverse the trend towards militarism in international affairs and to promote harmony and mutual trust between States.

Labor is committed to an independent stance in foreign affairs, based upon a realistic appraisal of power politics and a principled concern for peace and security: to an Australia less militarily oriented and not open to suggestions of racism, enjoying a growing standing as a distinctive, tolerant, co-operative and respected nation in the Asian and Pacific region and throughout the world.

B General Principles

Accordingly Labor will—

1 Seek to ensure respect for human rights in accordance with the general principles espoused by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as fundamental to justice and good order within and between nations.

2 Give continuing support to the UN and its agencies and to the UN Charter, and make every effort to improve the effectiveness of the UN as an instrument for justice, peace and security, and political, social and economic advancement.
3 Expand arrangements for political, cultural and economic co-operation, especially in our region.

4 Work for a new and just world economic order based on full, equitable and independent participation by all countries in the management and benefits of world trade and exchange.

5 Not commit Australian forces overseas except subject to clear and public international agreements and the mandate of the Australian people.

6 Co-operate with the people of the United States and New Zealand within the context of the Australia New Zealand United States (ANZUS) Treaty.

7 Pursue an independent foreign policy and develop reliable lines of communication with all great powers, thereby enabling Australia to achieve a closer association with the non-aligned movement and to engage in effective collective action for the establishment of regional zones of peace and neutrality, notably in the Indian Ocean, Southeast Asia and the South Pacific.

8 Foster the Commonwealth of Nations as an instrument for peace and understanding for political, social and economic advancement.

9 Maintain all Australian Treaties which respect the freedom, security, equality and human rights of all peoples and allow them to determine their own forms of government without external interference.

10 Develop friendly relations with other nations based on respect for their territorial integrity and political independence and for the principle of equal rights and self determination of peoples.

11 Make every effort to encourage the progress of detente in East-West relations.

12 Recognise that problems exist between States with different economic and social systems and not allow those differences to form the basis of our relations with other States.

13 Recognise, given the legitimate differing interests that exist between States, the fundamental urge of all peoples to live in peace and ensure that this principle is reflected in Australia's approach to international relations and disarmament and arms control.

14 Assign high priority to its relationship with other democratic socialist parties in the Socialist International (SI) and the Asian Pacific Socialist Organisation (APSO). Labor will seek through the SI and APSO common democratic socialist objectives on major international issues.

15 Oppose acts of violence as a normal means of securing political objectives.

16 Assign high priority to furthering equitable relations with the island states of the South Pacific and assist with their efforts to promote regional co-operation.
C  International Economic Relations

17 Labor recognises that existing international arrangements discriminate against developing nations and that all States would benefit from full economic interdependence. Labor accordingly will cooperate with other progressive developed countries to develop practical international co-operative arrangements aimed towards realisation of a New International Economic Order and endorse without reservation the UN Charter on the Economic Rights and Duties of States.

18 Labor considers that a comprehensive set of rules is needed to ensure that developing countries obtain full benefit from the growth of economic opportunities, including expanding technological capacities and of the exploitation of the sea and sea bed.

19 a Labor will endeavour to ensure that Australian investment in under-developed countries is such as to enhance the living standards of the people of those countries; and

b Labor will promote the balanced development of Australia’s trade with the Asian and Pacific region with a view to safeguarding Australia’s economic independence, developing a sound manufacturing base and ensuring the careful utilisation of our resources.

20 Labor will establish a bureau of international economic co-operation under the responsibility of the Minister for Foreign Affairs to ensure that Australian participation in all multilateral bodies dealing with international economic issues — including in particular UNCTAD, the IMF and the World Bank — is centrally co-ordinated as part of a common approach to North/South issues.

21 Labor supports the establishment of a strict code of conduct for transnational corporations and financial institutions; to ensure that their operations, particularly in developing countries, respect the independence of the host country and enhance the prospect of equitable self-reliant development. In the meantime, Labor will introduce a similar code for Australian firms investing in developing countries.

22 Whilst not affecting Australia’s current claims to certain areas of Antarctica a Labor government would be prepared to enter into discussions with other interested nations to investigate the desirability and practicability of international control of Antarctica.

D  Development Co-operation

Labor believes that a commitment to international development is a humanitarian responsibility. It also serves the enlightened self-interests of developed countries.

Labor is convinced that a co-operative approach is a prerequisite for achieving durable solutions to problems of world poverty and hunger and that it is within the power of the world community to
solve these problems by comprehensive strategies. Labor believes that developed nations must renew their commitment to increase aid to, and co-operate with, developing countries so as to stimulate growth in the world community and minimise international tension by creating a just, equitable and humane international society.

Labor's approach to development co-operation will therefore be based upon—

a an unequivocal commitment to achieve the UN target of 0.7 percent of gross national product for official development assistance with an immediate target of 0.5 percent by 1985 and an eventual target of 1.0 percent;
b renewed diplomatic and other international efforts to focus the attention of nations on practical means of achieving action programmes that offer durable solutions to critical world human problems;
c the progressive concepts of development contained in the Brandt Report of the Independent Commission of International Development Issues, entitled 'North-South: A Programme For Survival';
d the wishes of the people of recipient nations; foreign aid is not to be used as a means of securing any political, military or commercial advantage; and

e particular attention should be given to programmes which raise the status of women.

Accordingly, Labor will—

23 Increase the proportion of its development assistance which is directed to—

a multilateral agencies pursuing programmes which are consistent with its principles of development co-operation;
b programmes of global food security which address the problems of food investment, land reform, production, harvesting, nutrition, pricing, marketing and distribution to poor people; and
c the least developed countries, with particular stress on the need for appropriate technical assistance.

24 Support programmes of development education and information through Government and non-government aid organisations, which are consistent with its principles of development as essential to promote awareness in the community of the grave and growing problems of world poverty and hunger and their threat to the future of humanity.

25 Give high priority to development assistance in the countries of Australia's immediate region, in particular those of the South Pacific and South East Asia, to strengthen the fabric of peace and freedom and to uphold the principles of the International Covenants on human and economic rights.

26 Establish a Development Assistance Fund to keep development assistance expenditure flexible and establish systems for—
a creative and imaginative thinking on overseas development; and
b encouraging and co-operating with the development progress of non-government aid organisations.
27 Harness the talents and energies of the Australian private sector more effectively into development programmes, especially in assisting developing countries to enhance their trade, industrialisation and investment measures.

28 Co-operate in a positive manner with other like-minded developed countries in relevant international fora covering development, trade, industrial and financial matters.

29 Labor will support developing countries striving for the stabilisation of trade in primary commodities and relief of their crippling foreign debt burden.

30 Ensure that its official development organisation is effectively staffed, equipped and maintained; has the degree of independence necessary to promote Labor's development co-operation objectives; and is capable of keeping Labor informed on the changing patterns of development needs and on opportunities for new forms of Australian co-operation.

E Disarmament and Arms Control

Labor upholds the principles of disengagement and disarmament. Labor will work towards meaningful detente and effective measures of arms control. Labor will support and, where Australia can be a party, take initiatives in bilateral and multi-lateral negotiations for global and regional arrangements. To these ends, Labor will use Australia's influence as an ally of the United States.

Labor will—

31 Support moves to enhance the capacity of the UN Security Council to pre-empt conflicts and facilitate initiatives under Article 99 of the UN Charter.


33 Adopt the view that generally the presence of foreign forces in countries other than their own heightens international tension and is conducive to armed conflict. Accordingly, it will seek their removal by all available peaceful means including international disarmament agreements.

34 Oppose the development, proliferation, possession and use of nuclear, chemical, bacteriological and other techniques of mass destruction.

35 Work to apply and strengthen international conventions to secure universal prohibition of nuclear, chemical, and bacteriological and biological warfare. In relation to nuclear weapons, Labor will—

a. urge achievement of major qualitative restraints and quantitative reductions in Strategic Arms Limitation Talks and in regional arrangements;
b work actively with concerned states to achieve a complete cessation of nuclear testing and production of fissionable material for weapons purposes; and
c attach high priority to preventing the further proliferation of nuclear weapons, and to this end will not allow commercial considerations to govern Australia's anti-proliferation strategy.

36 Support arms limitation arrangements in the Indian Ocean, such as the zone of peace proposal.

37 Work to secure agreements among arms manufacturing nations to impose qualitative and quantitative constraints on arms transfer to areas of tension.

38 Support a nuclear free zone proposal in the Southern Pacific area.

39 Establish an Australian Disarmament and Arms Control Commission, responsible to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, with carriage of disarmament and arms control policy and for the formation of peace initiatives.

40 Allocate as proposed by the UN Secretary General the equivalent of 0.1 per cent of defence spending for work on arms control and disarmament. These funds would be used to establish a Peace and Development Studies Institute in Australia, which will examine the ways in which disarmament and arms control can contribute to national security interests, support scholarly research and conduct public education programmes.

F Bases and Facilities

Labor will—

41 Ensure that the presence in Australia of foreign or jointly owned, controlled or operated bases and facilities does not involve a derogation from Australian sovereignty.

42 Not oppose the use of Australian bases and facilities by allies in war-time, or in periods of international tension involving a threat to Australia, or in so far as they are involved with verification of treaties, agreements, and understandings on disarmament and arms control, such as the various SALT accords; provided Australian authority and sovereignty are unimpaired; and provided that Australia is not involved in hostilities without Australia's consent.

43 Oppose the use of Australian facilities for the permanent basing of foreign naval vessels in time of peace.

44 Will make known to the Australian public the general purpose and functions of the bases and any change to these.

45 Ensure that the Australian government is kept informed, at the highest levels, of any changes in the strategic planning or policies of the United States which could in any way affect the nature of the bases or the uses to which they may be put.

Also attempt to ensure that the Australian government has an opportunity to contribute to such strategic planning or policies as they are evolving.
46 Seek to ensure that the tenure of these bases and facilities by other powers not be of such a character as to exclude properly accredited access by authorised Australians charged with the duty of evaluating Australian defence policy, whether the Opposition Leadership, members of the Australian Parliament, defence departments or armed services.

47 Also ensure that Australian personnel are fully involved in all aspects of the bases’ operations and have the relevant technical expertise to be so involved.

48 Oppose the storage of nuclear weapons on Australian territory and the staging of operations involving nuclear weapons from Australian territory.

G Space Control

*Labor—*

49 Endorses the freedom of exploration, access and use of outer space by all States in accordance with international law, including the UN Charter, for the benefit of mankind.

50 Supports the use of space and all celestial bodies for peaceful purposes exclusively. It opposes any military base, installations, fortifications or weapons in outer space. It also opposes the conduct of military manoeuvres in outer space.

51 Declares that outer space is not subject to national appropriation or to claims of sovereignty because of use, occupation or any other grounds.

52 Supports the establishment of an International Space Control Authority.

H Discrimination

53 Labor opposes any form of segregation or discrimination on the grounds of colour, race, sex, creed or politics and will insist on ending every form of such discrimination within Australia and in Australian administered territories. Labor supports action, including sanctions, through the UN, to end such segregation and discrimination.

Labor will take all appropriate steps to ensure that the external affairs powers of the Federal Government specified in the Australian Constitution are used to secure full adherence to international conventions relating to discrimination on any of the grounds noted above.

I National Security Decision-Making

Labor recognises that the political decision-making apparatus of the Australian government is inadequate, now that national and international security is concerned with more than diplomacy and military
defence and involves departments and agencies other than Foreign Affairs and Defence.

Accordingly Labor will—

54 Establish a National and International Security Committee of Cabinet to co-ordinate policy and take collective decisions. This Committee will comprise the Prime Minister, the Deputy Prime Minister, the Foreign Minister, the Minister for Defence and other Ministers up to a total of six, all of whom will have access to the most sensitive of classified material. The Committee will report its decisions to Cabinet.

55 Also set up an Office of National and International Security to act as a secretariat to the Cabinet committee, co-ordinate proposals and provide inter-departmental linkages.

56 Ensure that the Australian government exercises authority over intelligence and security agencies. Labor will give specific authority to the National and International Security Committee of Cabinet to set overall intelligence and security policy and to oversee the work of the agencies.

57 Labor will introduce a system of parliamentary audit on intelligence and security.

58 Ensure, in accordance with international law, that no foreign intelligence organisations are allowed to conduct on Australian soil covert activities, including operation of electronic and surveillance devices.

59 Ensure that no Australian intelligence organisations are allowed to engage in any activities which are designed to destabilise or are capable of destabilising other governments. Also ensure that no Australian intelligence organisations participate in any activities of foreign intelligence organisations designed to destabilise governments.

J Human Rights

Labor—

60 Recognises that the rights to food, shelter, health care, economic security and education are fundamental pre-conditions to human survival and dignity, and that the ideal of free human beings enjoying freedom from fear and want can only be achieved if conditions are created whereby everyone can enjoy economic, social and cultural rights as well as civil and political rights.

61 Recognises that the freedom of individuals and groups to peacefully dissent is an indispensable condition of civil and political liberty along with freedom of thought, conscience, religion, assembly, association and the right not to be discriminated against on the basis of race, sex, language or religion.

62 Recognises that individuals everywhere must be free from governmental violations of the integrity of the person, including torture,
cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, arbitrary arrest and imprisonment, denial of fair public trial and invasion of personal privacy and the home.

63 Recognises that every government has an absolute duty to actively oppose the international crime of genocide wherever it is committed.

64 Deplores violations of human rights whenever they occur, irrespective of the ideology of the government or society which perpetrates them, and shall not be selective in opposing such violations.

65 Is committed to the preservation and enhancement of human rights in accordance with the general principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

66 Is committed to the implementation through legislation of all appropriate international instruments on human rights and fundamental freedoms. Labor will also take all appropriate steps to encourage regional and international implementation and enforcement of such instruments.
Foreign Affairs
Resolutions

AFGHANISTAN

Labor recognises the right of the Afghan people to work out their own destiny free from outside interference and condemns the continued occupation of Afghanistan by Soviet troops. Accordingly the ALP calls for an end to all foreign intervention in Afghanistan after the withdrawal of Soviet troops and supports negotiations to this end between the governments of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and those of Pakistan, Iran and the Soviet Union.

Labor recognises the plight of the Afghan refugees in Pakistan and the problems this poses for the host country, but believes the most effective means of solving this problem to be the normalisation of relations between Pakistan and the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan.

A Labor government would support initiatives aimed at bringing about direct negotiations between the governments of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and of Pakistan, Iran and the Soviet Union with a view to achieving such normalisation; to ending outside intervention in Afghanistan; and to bringing about the restoration of conditions in Afghanistan conducive to the repatriation of the refugees.

APARTEID

Labor condemns the practice of apartheid in South Africa. A Labor Government will direct its unremitting efforts through international organisations including the United Nations to bring about, through peaceful means, the elimination of racial discrimination in South Africa. Australia, in the course of vigorously pursuing its obligations
under the Gleneagles Agreement, will decline entry or transit to South African sporting teams selected on criteria which include race. Australia will in international forums in the financial, diplomatic, political, aviation, trade union and cultural fields take strong action to persuade the South African Government to abandon its apartheid policies. A Labor Government will also use all aspects of Australia's existing relationship with South Africa to press for an end to the apartheid system.

AUSTRALIA — MIDDLE EAST COUNCIL

A Labor Government will establish an Australia-Middle East Council, responsible to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, to develop and improve relations between the peoples of Australia and the Middle East and in particular to promote—

awareness throughout the Australian community of Middle East cultures and traditions, bearing in mind the significant contribution to Australian society of settlers of Middle Eastern ethnic origin;
the study of Middle Eastern history, society and languages at secondary and tertiary level;
research into social, economic and political conditions in the Middle East;
the exchange of persons and groups, cultural and economic activities, education, research and information between Australia and the Middle East.

CENTRAL AMERICA

The Conference notes with concern the escalation of military activities in Central America. Conference further—
supports the political solution proposed by the governments of Mexico and France in the case of El Salvador;
calls for the restoration of respect for human rights of all people in Central America;
abhors the vast inequalities of wealth which are the cause of the injustices suffered by the poor and of the violence in the region;
calls for the withdrawal of interference and the provision of military assistance by all external groups; and reaffirms that the people in each of the countries of the region have the right to determine democratically the political system under which they wish to live.
CHEMICAL WEAPONS

Conference notes—
1 That the Super Powers currently possess stockpiles of chemical and biological weapons, and that there is evidence of further research, development and stockpiling in this area.
2 That Australia acceded to the 1925 Geneva Protocol on Chemical and Biological Warfare on 24 May 1930, and that Australia has, in recent years, supported UN resolutions calling for strict observance of the 1925 Geneva Protocol.
3 That Australia is a signatory to the 1963 Basic Standardisation Agreement and the 1965 Technical Co-operation Program, both of which agreements specifically involve Australia in the exchange of information on Chemical and Biological Warfare and Chemical and Biological Weapons.
4 That successive Australian governments have taken a prominent role in efforts to negotiate a complete prohibition of chemical weapons.
5 That Australia is also a party to the 1972 Convention on the development, production, stockpiling and destruction of chemical and biological weapons.
6 And recalls the continuing problems of Vietnam veterans who were exposed to a variety of toxic chemicals in Vietnam, such as Agent Orange.

Conference therefore resolves—
1 That a Labor government will strictly comply with the 1925 Geneva Protocol.
2 That a Labor government will not use the 1963 Basic Standardisation Agreement and the 1965 Technical Co-operation Program agreements to facilitate development of Chemical and Biological Warfare and Chemical and Biological weapons and, if necessary, will seek the renegotiation of these agreements in order to comply with this resolution of Conference.

CYPRUS

The Conference commends the efforts of the Secretary General of the UN in securing agreement to intercommunal talks in Cyprus. Conference regrets that these talks have not yet made substantial progress and urges the leaders of both communities to continue the talks to achieve a lasting settlement with full respect for the human rights of both Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots.
Conference deplores the continued presence of foreign armed forces and foreign military personnel on the territory of the Republic of Cyprus and the fact that part of its territory is still occupied by foreign forces.
Accordingly, conference—
a calls for respect of the human rights for all Cypriots and the
instituting of urgent measures for the voluntary return of refugees to their homes in safety;
b calls on the Australian government to use its influences to have the relevant General Assembly Resolution including No 33/15 of 9/11/78 fully implemented; and
c calls for the immediate withdrawal of all foreign troops from the Republic of Cyprus.

SOUTH PACIFIC NUCLEAR FREE ZONE

Conference, noting Labor's platform commitment to 'support a nuclear free zone proposal in the Southern Pacific area'—

1 Condemns the dumping of nuclear waste material in the South Pacific as a threat to the living environment of the region.

2 Supports South Pacific states, trade unions and other organisations in opposing the testing of nuclear weapons, nuclear devices and also nuclear weapon systems in the region.

3 Calls on the Australian Government to request the United Nations to convene an international conference aimed at banning all nuclear activities in the South Pacific, to be attended by all the states of the region and all the nuclear weapons states plus those other states with an involvement in the nuclear fuel cycle.

EAST TIMOR

The ALP recognises the inalienable right of the East Timorese to self-determination and independence and condemns and rejects the Australian government's recognition of the Indonesian annexation of East Timor.
The ALP opposes all defence aid to Indonesia until there is a complete withdrawal of Indonesian occupation forces from East Timor.
Aid to East Timor should benefit the East Timorese but should not support Indonesian Government integration processes or military strategy.
The ALP supports the principle of free migration of East Timorese, including refugees, and believes Australia has an obligation and ability to assist East Timorese to come to Australia.
The ALP will seek out and make publicly available information on all aspects of the East Timor issue.
The ALP opposes the operations of Australian companies in East Timor until self-determination has been achieved.
The ALP will continue to support United Nations resolutions which promote the rights of East Timorese.

The ALP will, further—
circulate information on East Timor to governments and political parties overseas;
campaign for the Australian government to release more information;
press for free access to East Timor for the Australian news media;
demand that FRETILIN representatives be allowed into Australia;
press for an Australian parliamentary delegation to visit East Timor on a fact-finding mission, ensuring that adequate support is available from interpreters and that unhindered access is available to all parts of the country and population; and
press for a Parliamentary enquiry into all aspects of the East Timor question.

The ALP will also—
press the Australian government to widen its existing programmes to include: the parents and families of isolated children in Australia;
the rest of the 2668 extended family members nominated by Timorese in Australia in 1977; and all other East Timorese who wish to come here;
press the Australian government to send an immigration team to East Timor to bring to Australia the rest of the 600 people on the agreed list and those embraced by categories in the preceding paragraph;
seek direct talks with the Indonesian government on the matter;
draw attention to the lack of free migration from East Timor in all appropriate international fora; and
meet with the Timorese community in Australia to enquire into the special problems affecting them.

An ALP government will—
bring to Australia all Timorese included above;
refuse visas to all Indonesian military and government officials until the rest of the 600 people on the agreed list have been admitted to Australia; and
send an immigration team to East Timor to bring direct to Australia all East Timorese specified above.

AID TO FIJI

This conference expresses its concern at reports of blatant misuse of Australian aid funds in Fiji by the Fraser government to influence the forthcoming Fijian national election. It calls upon the Parliamentary Public Accounts Committee to include these reports in its investigation of aspects of Australian bilateral aid programmes.
Conference reiterates its total objection to this type of misuse of Australian taxpayers’ funds for short-term political gain. Conference further declares that Australia can only earn the trust and friendship of developing country neighbours with a full, long-term commitment to assist the legitimate development aspirations of these countries, rather than the use of aid funds to purchase short-term political support.

Conference declares its strong support for the reference in Labor’s development co-operation platform which specifically prohibits the use of foreign aid as a means of securing any political advantage. Conference therefore calls on the next Labor government to ensure that it uses Australian aid funds solely to promote the long-term development requirements of developing countries.

INDIAN OCEAN

Conference calls on Australia to take the lead in encouraging all Indian Ocean States to convene, at the earliest possible date, an international conference to realise the declaration of the Indian Ocean by the UN as a zone of peace.

At such a conference, Australia should support moves to outlaw use of the peace zone by warships and military aircraft for any threat, or use of force, against any littoral or hinterland state of the Indian Ocean.

Further, as an immediate goal, Australia should urge the USA and the USSR to refrain from establishing new bases, upgrading their existing facilities, or expanding their navies in the Ocean. We should also urge negotiation between these two powers, and other powers with a naval presence, aimed at reducing forces to the lowest possible level.

INDO CHINA

a The Government should accept the fact that with or without Soviet military and economic aid, Vietnam is one of the most significant military powers in the Pacific region. Any future foreign or domestic policy decisions concerning developments in the Pacific region should reflect cognisance of the reality of this military power.

b Australia should support policies which would result in the independence of the three Indo Chinese countries, based on democratically elected governments.

c The Government should resume its commitment to the two aid projects in Vietnam suspended in January 1979. We should also resume cultural exchanges so as to promote greater understanding between our countries.
The level of any future humanitarian and development aid should be consistent with our United Nations commitments and also should acknowledge our involvement in the Vietnam war and the subsequent need for rehabilitation in the interests of the Vietnamese people.

d The general abhorrence in Australia of the Democratic Kampuchean regime should be kept in mind when considering Australia's attitude towards the region. Australia should discourage all support for the Democratic Kampuchea (Pol Pot) regime so as to create conditions favorable to a withdrawal of Vietnamese forces. Australia will not give any recognition, bilaterally or multilaterally, to any coalition or regime including Pol Pot forces.

e Australia should make strenuous diplomatic efforts to promote regional solutions to Indo Chinese problems and, in the interests of peace and stability in the region, attempt to decrease the involvement of the superpowers.

f Australian humanitarian aid to Kampuchea should continue, and developmental and cultural assistance should be introduced.

g The Government should encourage further and continuous study of this volatile area which is likely to become more important in Australia's future. In this way, the Australian public can become aware of the many political, military, social and economic factors contributing to the present instability of the region, and public interest in events in the region will be stimulated.

h The Government should utilise its relationship with ASEAN to encourage all forms of dialogue between ASEAN countries and Indo China which may help decrease tension in the region and promote a peaceful settlement of the conflict in Kampuchea. Australia should also continue to lend its support of international efforts aimed at decreasing regional tension.

i Working through United Nations organisations the Government should press for some administrative machinery to be established on the Thai-Kampuchean border so that genuine refugees — those seeking a new life in another country — can quickly and permanently be separated from short term refugees — particularly from Kampuchea — who intend to return to Kampuchea.

LEBANON

Conference—

1 Strongly condemns Israel's recent brutal invasion and occupation of Lebanon.

2 Supports the repeated calls by the United Nations for a cease-fire by all parties and the withdrawal of Israeli troops.

3 Deplores the reckless disregard by Israel for civilian life in Lebanon and the obstruction of the delivery of relief supplies by international
humanitarian organisations, including the International Red Cross, and requests Israel to cease any such obstruction immediately.

4 Condemns the indiscriminate bombing of the Palestinian refugee camps and the blockade of West Beirut.

5 Deplores the numerous breaches by Israeli forces of the Geneva Conventions relating to the treatment of civilians in time of conflict.

6 Calls for all States to respect the territorial integrity of Lebanon and reaffirms the right of the Lebanese people to live in peace free from the destructive influence of all foreign forces.

7 Considers that the actions of the Begin Government in Lebanon underline the wisdom of the Federal Parliamentary Labor Party in opposing the commitment of Australian forces to the Sinai Peacekeeping Force and calls for the withdrawal of these troops.

THE MIDDLE EAST

Labor seeks a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East.

The attainment of such peace remains an urgent necessity. Labor thus affirms UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 which seek such a peace; also UN Security Council Resolutions condemning acts contrary to such objectives, namely 338/73 (violation of Lebanese Sovereignty); 508 and 509/82 (June '82 invasion of Lebanon); 501/82 (annexation of Golan Heights); 476/80 (annexation Arab Section Jerusalem); 465/80 (Israeli settlement in occupied territories).

Labor believes that both Palestinians and Israelis are entitled to homelands and States of their own. Both the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel should recognise that fact and the reality of the existence of each other.

There can be no lasting peace until Israel recognises the just claims of the Palestinian people, including the right to self-determination and a Palestinian homeland and until Israeli forces have been withdrawn from the occupied territories to Internationally recognised boundaries.

Equally there can be no lasting peace until the Arab states and the Palestine Liberation organisation respect and recognise Israel's sovereignty and right to exist.

In accordance with these principles a Labor government would support the search for a just and lasting peace through the convening of an international conference, co-chaired by the United States and the Soviet Union, and including representatives of the PLO and other concerned parties.

NAMIBIA

The conference considers that, in order that the people of Namibia be enabled freely to determine their own future, it is imperative that
free elections under the supervision and control of the United Na-
tions be held for the whole of Namibia as one political entity.

Accordingly, Conference, deploring the militarization of Namibia by
the illegal occupation regime of South Africa, condemns—
the continued illegal occupation of the Territory of Namibia by
South Africa;
the illegal and arbitrary application by South Africa of racially
discriminatory and repressive laws and practices in Namibia; and
the South African military build-up in Namibia and any utilization
of the Territory as a base for attacks on neighbouring countries.
Conference further calls upon South Africa to put an end forthwith to
its policy of bantustans and the so-called homelands aimed at
violating the national unity and the territorial integrity of Namibia.

Conference urges South Africa to—

a Comply fully in spirit and in practice with provisions of the Univer-
sal Declaration of Human Rights;

b release all Namibian political prisoners, including all those imprison-
ed or detained in connection with offences under so-called
internal security laws, whether such Namibians have been
charged or tried or are held without charge and whether held in
Namibia or South Africa;

c abolish the application in Namibia of all racially discriminatory
and politically repressive laws and practices, particularly
bantustans and homelands; and

d accord unconditionally to all Namibians currently in exile for
political reasons, full facilities for return to their country without
risk of arrest, detention, intimidation or imprisonment.

NEW CALEDONIA

Conference notes changes in French official policy which have
followed the elections of President Mitterrand and the Socialist
government in France and the appointments of M. Emmanuelli as
Secretary of State for Overseas Territories and Departments and M.
Nucci as High Commissioner in New Caledonia. The reform pro-
gramme launched by M. Emmanuelli on 13 December last year will
go some way towards redressing the injustices done in the past to
the indigenous Melanesian popula..^n and towards enabling New
Caledonia to achieve independence while maintaining harmony
among its varied population.

Conference welcomes recent political changes within New
Caledonia which have created a joint administration between the
Front Independantiste and other parties under the leadership of
Jean Marie Tjibaou. We hope that the new Government Council
formed on 18 June will ease the path to independence with the
support of the majority of the local population and the French administration. In particular, the new alliance promises cooperation between the indigenous Melanesians and other ethnic groups towards the ultimate objective of Kanak Socialism and independence.

Conference affirms its support for the resolution of the South Pacific Forum of August 1981 at Vila in favour of the right of self-determination of the peoples of the Pacific. We call upon the French Government to make a public commitment to independence for New Caledonia and the local French administration not to obstruct or discourage peaceful development towards independence.

Conference urges the Australian Government to do everything possible to assist the process of independence in co-operation with the French Government and the new Government Council of New Caledonia. We call on the Australian Government to support moves at the 1982 South Pacific Forum for the inclusion of New Caledonia on the list of non-self-governing countries before the UN Décolonisation Committee of Twenty-four.

POLAND

Conference supports the right of the Polish people to determine their own future free from external interference and pressure. Therefore, it condemns the imposition of martial law in Poland and the accompanying restriction of political, civil and trade union rights.

Conference urges the Polish government to release all political prisoners and restore civil liberties.

In recognition of the close relationship between a stable economy and political freedom in Poland, Conference urges Western governments to provide economic assistance.

Conference calls for the granting of exit visas to all Poles who wish to be reunited with their families living in Australia. It urge the Federal Government to apply all diplomatic pressure within its means to achieve this end.

Conference determines that this resolution should be conveyed to the Polish Embassy, Solidarity in Australia and the Committee for Polish Family Reunions.

DEVELOPMENT CO—OPERATION WITH THE SOUTH PACIFIC

Conference—

1 Notes the revised section of the Foreign Affairs platform on Development Co-operation and in particular the high priority assigned to the South Pacific in clause (3) and the statement in (e) of the preamble that ‘particular attention should be given to programmes which raised the status of women’.
2 Expresses its commitment to aid contributing directly to raising the living standards of rural communities, especially in the provision of basic public services — public health, water, sewerage and drainage, culturally and vocationally relevant education.

3 Makes a commitment not only to the U.N. target of 0.7% of GNP for development co-operation, but also to ensuring that aid meets more effectively the requirements of the recipient countries and in particular takes into account the special needs of far-flung and isolated island states.

4 Condemns the Fraser government’s misuse of aid funds to the South Pacific as a means to counter the alleged presence of Soviet vessels in the region. Conference declares that Australia’s aid to the South Pacific must be based on a predictable long-term concern for the peoples of the region.

5 Undertakes that a Labor government will assess development co-operation with South Pacific countries on the basis of their needs and the development objectives of their governments.

U.S. — SOVIET ARMS TALKS

Conference calls on the United States and the Soviet Union, in their negotiations which began in Geneva on 29 June 1982, on strategic nuclear arms, to reach agreement on—

a a mutual and verifiable freeze on the testing, production and development of nuclear warheads, missiles and other delivery systems;

b mutual, balanced and verifiable reductions of nuclear forces to lower equivalent levels, with special attention to destabilising weapons that are vulnerable to or capable of pre-emptive attack;

c a comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty and the cessation of production of fissile material for nuclear weapons.
12 Health

A General Principles

Health is not merely the absence of disease and infirmity but is also the successful adaptation to one's total environment. Labor's policies therefore emphasise public and environmental health as well as medical and hospital services.

A Labor government will—

- promote a physical and social environment free of hazards to physical and mental health;
- encourage the community to participate in restoration and maintenance of the health of its members;
- ensure access to basic health services for all; and
- assist those with disability to adapt as well as possible to their circumstances and, as far as practicable, take their place in society.

B Public and Environmental Health

Labor recognises that much ill health in modern society results from unhealthy life styles and the social, occupational and physical environment which induce such lifestyles. Many common diseases arise directly from pollution of air and water sources and from work place conditions.

Labor supports attempts to improve community health by encouraging individuals to change their behaviour, but emphasises that these should not distract attention from the underlying environmental factors leading to ill health.

Labor will—

1 Research

Promote continuing research and surveys into the health needs and services of the community to—

a determine the nature and incidence of disease and improve its prevention and treatment in the community;
b identify health hazards in the diet and in the domestic, occupational and community environment;
c evaluate the effectiveness, accessibility and cost of health care;
d develop a uniform national code of practice in industry and agriculture to protect the air, soil, water and food from contamination and deterioration;
e develop and implement programmes for sports and physical fitness;
f identify health factors in contraception, reproduction and ageing;
g determine risk factors in vehicle and road design and physiological and disease states predisposing to road accidents;
h find effective methods of preventing and reducing abuse of legal and illegal drugs; and
i determine appropriate size and composition of the health workforce.

2 Promotion
In co-operation with state territory and local governments—
a promote the adoption by all states and the Commonwealth of a uniform environmental code to apply to the conditions of any industries being established to ensure no state or territory can become a ‘pollution haven’;
b promote the fluoridation of Australian drinking water supplies;
c take further action to inhibit the promotion of cigarettes;
d review the practices, codes and regulations relating to the promotion of alcohol so as to promote in the community an awareness of safe patterns of alcohol consumption;
e use of tax policy and excise duty to favour low tar cigarettes and low alcohol beverages;
f provide preventive programmes designed to reduce the road toll;
g adopt measures to protect the community from the hazards of radioactive substances; and
h promote family planning to enable people to make rational and informed decisions regarding human fertility.

3 Education
a Promote and support education programmes on lifestyle factors affecting physical and mental health including—
i diet;
ii human sexuality and interpersonal relationships;
iii leisure;
iv social, cultural and employment influences;
b support tested and effective programmes for the reduction of drug abuse;
c support proven programmes to increase awareness of known health risk factors;
d encourage provision of a comprehensive health education programme in schools; and
support campaigns to increase awareness of, and reduce incidence of, road accidents, especially when alcohol related.

4 Occupational Health
a Establish a National Institute of Environmental and Occupational Health.
   The Institute will—
   i commission and perform research into environmental and occupational health issues, including research as requested by the National Occupational Health and Safety Commission;
   ii establish appropriate disease registers for monitoring the incidence of, and the environmental causation of, diseases in Australian society;
   iii act as a repository of health and safety information (including a computerised registry of chemicals and their toxic effects) to be made available free of charge to other government authorities, employers, unions, and the general public;
   iv prepare criteria documents and research particular topics in the preparation of general environmental and workplace standards; and
   v contribute to the training of environmental and occupational health professionals.
b Develop education programmes designed—
   i for personnel engaged in occupational health and safety;
   ii for employers to ensure that industrial plant, processes and conditions are based on the application of ergonomic principles to ensure the comfort, safety and mental health of workers; and
   iii for employees to ensure correct safety practices and the prompt recognition of safety hazards.

5 Community Health
Labor will give priority to the maintenance of good health and prevention of illness and under its community health programme will—
a develop community health services providing comprehensive medical and dental services, health promotion programmes and contraceptive services and advice, encompassing domiciliary care and integrated where appropriate with other health facilities and ensuring priority to areas of greatest need (including the needs of special groups);
b provide for the services to be staffed by multi-disciplinary teams of salaried and sessional health personnel; and
c provide for elected representatives from the clients, local community and staff in the management structure of the community health service.
C Aboriginal Health

Refer to the health section of the Aboriginal and Islanders platform.

D Acute and Curative Services

Labor recognises that a mixed system of primary care has developed in Australia, and will continue to support that system. Recognising the contribution of private medical practice to the health system, Labor will encourage the participation of private practitioners in the overall planned health service. Labor also recognises the role of hospitals in the health system as centres of excellence in curative medicine, research and teaching. Labor will ensure that this standard is maintained and will ensure that such services are properly integrated within the health system. This will provide continuity of care, equal access and rational use of hospital and health services. There will be maximum community, client and staff participation in administration at all levels.

Labor will —

6 Medical

a encourage the establishment of alternative methods of funding health care delivery such as health maintenance organisations and primary medical care provided by doctors willing to join a salaried medical service; these services to be available in public hospitals and clinics, community health centres and other appropriate arrangements.

7 Dental

a expand the school dental scheme to all primary school children and subsequently, to all pre-school and secondary school children; and

b support and encourage state provision of dental services for pensioners, pregnant women, the unemployed and other needy groups and eventually as an alternative for all who choose to use such services.

8 Hospitals

a establish as a right, non-means-tested access to public hospital services;

b support accreditation, audit and peer review procedures to encourage high quality care and to prevent over-utilisation;

c establish certificate-of-need criteria for high technology developments in public and private facilities;

d expand the proportion of public beds within the hospital system; and

e revise the provision of health statistics to assist in financing, planning, evaluation and research.
9 Psychiatric
   a integrate psychiatric services with health, welfare and other
      services at the community level;
   b retain high security accommodation for psychiatric patients who
      may be a danger to the community or themselves and integrate
      psychiatric hospitals into the hospital system; and
   c plan for the abolition of separate financial arrangements for
      psychiatric illness.

10 Pharmaceuticals and Pharmaceutical Benefits
   a control the advertising of pharmaceuticals to provide balanced
      factual information;
   b improve the monitoring of the prescription and use of
      pharmaceuticals;
   c provide information on drug incompatibilities, side-effects, indica-
      tions and contra-indications and interactions;
   d promote the manufacture, bulk purchase and wholesale distribu-
      tion of pharmaceutical products in competition with private
      manufacturers;
   e enable essential prescribed pharmaceuticals to be free of direct
      charge to the patient; and
   f allow only pharmacists to sell compound analgesics.

E Rehabilitative and Long Term Care Services

Recognising that there are special problems in the rehabilitation
and long term health care of the chronically ill or disabled, and those
in need of geriatric care, Labor will develop an integrated and
community based programme which will —

11 Rehabilitation
   a regard health care as one important aspect of rehabilitation;
   b ensure that a team approach, with appropriate specialists for
      each person, is used to determine the type and length of rehabili-
      tation and the assessment of recovery, or acceptable adaptation
      to the disability;
   c seek the co-operation of industry and training institutions in train-
      ing or retraining and employment; and
   d support the provision of medical and surgical aids, home modifi-
      cations and transport assistance for disabled persons.
12 Long Term Care
   a integrate all aspects of health and social welfare delivery, including domiciliary care, day care, nursing home care, hospital and hospice care with the aim of maintaining people in their own homes;
   b provide co-ordinated community support services, based on a team approach;
   c provide an appropriate distribution of hostel, nursing home and hospice accommodation; and
   d provide assessment to match care and accommodation with medical, social and emotional needs.

F Patient Access & Rights

Labor will —

13 Access
   a make available health and welfare services to all based on the criterion of need;
   b develop programmes to ensure that those in need of assistance are made aware of available services, and of their rights and access to services;
   c develop interpreter and translator services;
   d provide special health services for those who face problems of access such as aboriginals, youth, women, migrants, those in isolated areas, the elderly and the disabled who face problems of access to services; and
   e ensure that general existing services are sensitive to the needs of special groups.

14 Rights

Provide that —

   a informed consent (as defined by the Helsinki Declaration) be a pre-requisite of medical treatment;
   b make accessible to patients their health records;
   c such records should not be disclosed to any other person outside the health care teams except with the consent of the patient or guardian, or at the direction of a court or with the authority of the responsible minister;
   d insofar as health records are required for medical auditing, peer review or research purposes, the privacy of patients should be respected to the greatest degree possible; and
   e continuously review the rights of persons in relation to psychiatric committal and treatment to protect their civil liberties.
G Guidelines for Implementation

Labor will —

15 Government Co-operation
Recognise the need for national planning and funding in order to develop policies integrating health services and also recognise the important role which is offered at all three levels of government in the provision of health services. Therefore, a Federal Labor government will co-operate fully with state, territory and local governments in the provision of services.

16 Funding
Introduce a universal Health Insurance Scheme to be financed by an income-related contribution.

17 Integration and Decentralisation
Recognise that the co-ordination and integration of a broader range of health and welfare services is best effected at the local and regional level, both to avoid the overlapping and duplication of services and to ensure that a full range of services is available, consistent with effective administration.

18 Community Involvement
Involve all sections of the community, especially providers and users of health services, in the formation of policy, determination of need, administration of services and the maintenance of standards.

19 Evaluation
Ensure that both government and non-government health programmes have inbuilt monitoring and evaluation to ensure their effectiveness.

20 Fraud and Over-servicing
Strengthen legislation and provide sufficient staff and resources to ensure that fraud and over-servicing by those doctors abusing the system is significantly reduced.

21 Health Workforce
Determine the appropriate size and composition of the health workforce.

22 Non-Government and Community Sector
Acknowledging independent non-government agencies and community groups are important contributors in the health field, encourage the continuation and expansion of their work particularly in the areas of innovation and experimentation, education, community advocacy and social development activities.
23 **Overseas Consultation**
Strengthen ties with relevant international organisations and, through them, co-operate with other countries, particularly those in our region.
13 Immigration and Community Relations

A Introduction

Australia has consciously pursued policies of attracting migrants for permanent settlement. Labor will continue with this policy, concentrating mainly on family reunion but also taking into consideration the needs and the capacity of Australia’s economy to absorb migrants.

Labor regards it as the government’s responsibility to assist migrants in establishing themselves with the same rights, opportunities and responsibilities as all Australians. Participation of these settlers in Australian society at the level desired by them must be facilitated in every possible way, recognising the important role family reunion plays in this process.

All ethnic groups must be free to retain and express their ethnic identity if they desire to do so, without sacrificing their rights of equal access to the community’s resources.

Improved community relations; the relationships of particular ethnic groups, whether English speaking or not, with all sections of the community, must be positively encouraged and any measures taken must be administered with flexibility and an understanding of the diversity of the population.
B Immigration and Population Policy

A Labor government will —
1. Establish a National Population Council, to consider and make recommendations on the relationship between population growth, immigration, the economy and the quality of life. The Council will be drawn from groups representing community, ethnic, economic, environmental, industrial and social interests.
2. Support immigration at a level which is consistent with the national interest and Australia's humanitarian obligations. Within the immigration programme family reunions must have a very high priority. Family reunion sponsored by Australian residents shall not require assurances of support.
3. In determining its immigration policy ensure that levels of employment and the needs of the labour market are taken into consideration.
Labor will continue to support special humanitarian and refugee programmes. However, in the case of refugees, greater emphasis will be placed on initiating or supporting political settlements to ease the plight of refugees.
5. Review the Australian Citizenship Act 1948, to remove present anomalies including the requirement that an applicant for citizenship demonstrate an adequate knowledge of the English language.
6. Labor considers that the law relating to deportations is in urgent need of reform. While we accept the policy of the ultimate discretion to deport resting in the responsible Minister rather than the courts, tribunal decisions should only be overturned by the Minister in exceptionally clear circumstances when strong new probative evidence can be produced to justify the decision.

C Ethnic Affairs

A Labor government will —
7. Introduce an efficient and speedy mechanism for the recognition of overseas trade, technical and professional qualifications.
8. Provide for comprehensive ethnic media programming, which includes community involvement, on public and national services.
9. Assist ethnic groups to develop their own cultural, educational and welfare projects. Assist ethnic community organisations, composed of democratically elected representatives from various ethnic groups, to act as advocates for ethnic groups and individuals.
10. Ensure that all government departments and statutory authorities recognise the diversity of the population, are geared to meet the special needs of ethnic communities, provide equality of access
of non-English speaking people to employment in these organisations and equal access to information and services through bi-lingual and interpreter services.

b Ensure that all government departments and statutory authorities in their development and implementation of the government's policy and programmes take into consideration the special needs of the ethnic communities.

11 Oppose all forms of racial discrimination and will ensure that Australia fulfils its obligations arising from the International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination (1965), and will provide proper and adequate machinery to deal with racial and other discrimination.

12 Be committed to a National Language Policy. To achieve this aim Labor will —

a extend and improve the programme for teaching English as a second language to children and adults and provide access to transitional bilingual education programmes as a right for children entering primary schools with high ethnic concentrations;

b provide for the study of community languages and culture for all Australians and for bilingual education programmes where needed; and

c act in conjunction with employers to seek the establishment of English courses for Non-English speaking persons at the workplace during working hours.

13 In accordance with our belief that responsibility for settlement services rests with the government, establish consultative machinery between the states, territories and the Federal government to determine the level of immigration intake and of federal financial support to ensure the states and territories can provide adequate facilities, services and opportunities for all new settlers.

14 Ensure that migrants have equal access to welfare services. Further, Labor will assist ethnic groups to develop their own welfare projects, including an extension of the Grant-in-Aid Scheme and a new Welfare Rights Programme.

15 Establish a tripartite committee consisting of government, management and unions, to develop comprehensive strategies to overcome the human problems of a multicultural workforce covering such matters as language problems, safety practices, workers compensation, recognition of overseas qualifications and problems associated with unemployment and the exploitation of migrant workers.

16 Support comprehensive exchange programmes particularly with countries from which migrants have come.

17 Recognise the special needs of migrant women who suffer even greater discrimination than their male counterparts. The areas of special priority being —

a health;
b occupational health and safety;
c psychiatric care;
d discrimination in employment;
e sexual harassment; and
f learning English as a second language.
Federal Parliamentary

Opposition Leader Bill Hayden.
ALP national president and NSW Premier Neville Wran.
Senate Opposition Leader John Button, Deputy Opposition Leader and Lionel Bowen.
Shadow Minerals and Energy Minister Paul Keating.
Shadow Environment Minister Stewart West.
Special speakers Hugh Saddler and Jeanette McHugh.
Tasmanian Opposition Leader Ken Wriedt.
Opposition Leader Bill Hayden, Victorian ALP branch secretary Bob Hogg and Deputy Opposition Leader Lionel Bowen.
NSW delegates, Senator Arthur Gietzelt, left, and Senator Bruce Childs.
Opposition Leader Bill Hayden.
NSW delegate Trish Kavanagh.
Shadow Industrial Relations Minister Bob Hawke.
Senate Opposition Leader John Button.
A Introduction

Labor believes that good industrial relations are required on grounds of justice to those in the workforce and of efficiency in the functioning of the economy.

Labor's industrial relations policies, in conjunction with other relevant policies of a Labor government, are designed to ensure the right of Australian working men and women to—

a. an adequate standard of living;
b. an equitable share in the growing real output of the community;
c. a safe and healthy working environment;
d. full and secure employment;
e. equal opportunity and freedom from discrimination on grounds of race, sex and marital status, sexual orientation, age, religion, political opinion, physical appearance, physical or mental impairment, criminal or security record, national extraction or social origin; and
f. organise in democratic trade unions.

Among the methods to be adopted to ensure these rights, a Labor government will recognise the right of workers—

i. to bargain collectively. A Labor government will proceed on the basis that this right, as is recognised by the ILO, entails the right to take industrial action without pains and penalties being directed against unions for the exercise of that right. A Labor government will encourage the creation of an atmosphere of discussion and conciliation wherein direct action will be perceived as a weapon of last resort;
ii. to participate in an effective conciliation and arbitration system with an emphasis on the prevention and settlement of industrial disputes through conciliation;
iii. to exercise power in the decision-making processes of enterprises in which they are employed through the promotion and development of industrial democracy schemes;
iv to be represented in the relevant decision-making processes of government through the full participation of their respective trade unions and the ACTU in tripartite consultative machinery;
v to participate in publicly funded trade union training courses and to have access to programmes based on the concept of continuing education. A Labor government will also encourage training programmes for public and private management in the belief that many current industrial relations problems stem from inadequacies in that area; and
vi to be represented at the international level through the participation of the trade union movement in bodies such as the ILO and trade committees - such rights to be equally available, where applicable, to representatives of employer organisations.

B Trade Unions

Trade unions have a vital role in the Australian social fabric. Trade unions have been and remain an instrument of social change and progress in Australia and Labor’s industrial relations policy aims to maintain and strengthen trade union organisation. Recognising the special benefits and obligations of trade unions in the Australian industrial relations system a Labor government will review current industrial and related laws and practices in order to reach the following objectives—

1 The facilitation of further amalgamation of industrial organisations.
2 The recognition of the rights of unions to regulate their own affairs in a democratic way, free from government and judicial interference and at the same time expanding the role of the Industrial Registrar in advising on matters relating to rules so that unions will have access to information and independent advice which will allow them, where necessary, to improve and update their rules.
3 Exempt unions from provisions of the Trade Practices Act.
4 The continued encouragement of participatory democracy in registered organisations.
5 The resolution, in consultation with state governments and unions, of problems created for registered organisations at state and Federal levels.
6 The right of access to workers by the unions who represent them including personal access, distribution of information and the convening of meetings of workers.
7 The rights of unionists and their committees and representatives to have adequate time and opportunity during working hours to meet, discuss, analyse, prepare and promote their ideas and initiatives.
8 The recognition of the special role of job representatives and the provision of security in their employment and their freedom from
victimisation and the granting of the rights necessary for them to function effectively on behalf of the workers they represent.

9 The encouragement of the membership of registered organisations through the provision of preference to unionists in the taking of leave and, where practicable, in the light of legislative prescriptions, in their engagement and promotion and their retention in cases of retrenchments.

10 Secure the greater participation of disadvantaged groups including aborigines, women and migrants in trade unions through, in consultation with the unions, the provision of services such as education to encourage greater involvement, child care amenities and interpretation and translation facilities.

11 Recognise that the legitimate role of the trade unions is not limited to legally defined industrial matters.

12 Support the establishment and operation of effective procedures within the union movement for the resolution of disputes between unions.

C Terms of Employment

A fundamental element of a just and practical industrial relations system is the attainment of terms of employment that are in keeping with the reasonable expectations of the Australian people and are of the highest standard consistent with the maintenance of economic progress. A Labor government will strive to ensure that such terms of employment are established.

Standards as to Wages and Conditions.

Wage and condition standards must recognise the right of all employees to a reasonable and adequate standard of living and job security. A Labor government will, in consultation with employers and the union movement, work for the establishment in practice of the following standards and principles—

13 Automatic, full quarterly indexation of wages and salaries in accordance with movements in the Consumer Price Index.

14 Increases in living standards through the periodic distribution of national productivity increases in the form of better pay and/or working conditions and entitlements.

15 The recognition of the need for wage relativities which reflect the true value to the community of work performed by all categories of wage and salary earners.

16 The establishment and maintenance of a viable and effective minimum wage which is adjusted quarterly in accordance with movements in the Consumer Price Index.

17 Equal remuneration for work of equal value regardless of race, colour, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, age, religion, political opinion, national extraction or social origin.
18 Portability of long-service leave, a minimum provision of three months' long-service leave for each seven years of service and long-service leave for casual and part-time employees together with provisions covering pro-rata long-service in cases where an employee has worked for the same employer for three years or more.

19 Application to employees of contractors and to sub-contractors, of wages and conditions no less favourable than the wages and conditions applying to similar classifications of employees specified in the award, determination, or industrial agreements observed at the site or establishment at which such persons are employed.

20 The right of employees, through their unions, to be notified and consulted by employers about proposed changes in work methods or in the way in which work is organised. Australian Government Authorities shall consult with unions affected by a proposed technological change from the initiation of it through to completion. Such consultation shall include joint participation in the forward planning and implementation processes to achieve the objectives agreed.

21 The right of employees, through their unions, to have access to information on matters of direct interest to union members in an undertaking including matters of manpower, remuneration, control, ownership of enterprises, proposed changes in development production, investment plans, and information on costs, pricing and profits.

22 The right of employees to participate fully in the operation of their unions including the provision of facilities in an undertaking to union and job representatives in order to enable them to carry out their functions and the right of union members and their representatives to have adequate time and opportunity during working hours to meet to discuss relevant matters.

23 The establishment of standards defining the rights and obligations of employers, employees and unions in termination of employment situations. These standards would include protection for employees against unfair dismissal and provision for reasonable periods of notice based on age and length of service to be given by employers on termination of employment.

24 The establishment of provisions relating to redundancy which identify the rights and obligations of employers, employees and unions. These provisions to include—

a an obligation on employers to consult with unions before taking any decision which may have redundancy implications. For the purposes of such consultation, the employer should provide full information about the proposed action which may lead to redundancies;

b an obligation on employers, in consultation with unions, to take positive measures to avoid or to minimise retrenchments due to redundancy;
c employers to notify relevant public authorities (including the Commonwealth Employment Service) of impending redundancies or retrenchments so that appropriate action may be taken by those authorities to assist the workers affected;

d reasonable levels of compensation for workers dismissed due to redundancy including a minimum period of six months notice of termination; severance pay based on age and length of service; payment of pro-rata long service leave and other accrued rights or provision for portability of such rights; payment of the total accumulation of superannuation or pension fund benefits; and compensation for other losses consequent on retrenchment; and

e assistance to employees whose jobs have been made redundant to find other work or employment including the provision of training and retraining opportunities.

25 All benefits and status of full-time work to apply to permanent part-time work on a pro-rata basis.

26 The right of workers to maternity and/or paternity leave and to freedom from discrimination in employment on the ground of pregnancy or childbirth.

Australian Government Employees

Australian government employment is a form of community resource whose use should be dedicated to advancement of the community interest.

The composition of the Australian government workforce and the rules and practices which govern it, should reflect the composition and values of the community which it serves, be free of improper discrimination, and be compatible with social accountability.

In recognition of its responsibility as the largest single employer and in addition to actions it may take in the interests of employees generally, a Labor government will legislate, where practicable, and otherwise give administrative effect to the following policies—

27 All sections of the public service to be treated equally, guaranteeing all public servants comparable treatment in wages and conditions, across the public sector and in relation to the private sector, and at all times fully consulting the industrial organisations concerned for their advice and guidance.

28 The public service to be staffed on the basis of equity. People should not be penalised for their social origins or disabilities, recognising the disadvantaged positions in the public service of Aborigines, women, migrants and the handicapped. More sensitive terms of employment will be introduced to assist those groups, and increasing use to be made of more flexible methods to fit in with the family responsibilities of men and women in order not to lose, or to fail to recruit, their particular skills.
29 All agencies of the Australian government will exercise powers and
discretions in a manner that does not discriminate on grounds of
race, sex and marital status, sexual orientation, age, religion, politi-
cal opinion, physical appearance, physical or mental impairment,
national extraction or social origin, security record or educational
qualifications, except where reasonably and justifiably required for
the effective performance of work to be undertaken.

30 Employees should have the opportunity to retire from government
service at a relatively early age, if they so choose, without loss of
accrued rights and prospects. In this context the sections of the
Commonwealth Employees Redeployment and Retirement Act
1979 dealing with compulsory management-initiated early retire-
ment will be repealed and new sections drafted in consultation with
employees and their associations.

31 For the whole government workforce, participation by employees in
the organisation and development of departmental work to be
supported.
Experiments with new organisational forms will, in co-operation with
the staff associations, continue to be supported. The grievance
procedures of the public service shall be revised, simplified, and
extended both to safeguard the rights of employees and to restore
uniformity of treatment throughout the whole service, and the prom-
tion appeals machinery to be similarly reviewed. Existing consulta-
tive machinery such as Joint Council and similar bodies in statutory
authorities will be reviewed in consultation with industrial organisa-
tions concerned to secure the restoration of genuine consultation
and discussion.

32 Experimentation with, and development of, systems or rewards and
opportunities will be promoted.

33 The objectives and roles of the Public Service Board will be revised
to give emphasis to the need for humane personnel management,
for an open, representative, and responsive bureaucracy, and for
development of closer relationships between government emp-
loees and the community they serve.

34 The Commonwealth Employees (Employment Provisions) Act 1977
and the sections of the Public Service and Statutory Authorities
Amendment Act 1980 dealing with 'no work as directed — no pay:
will be repealed.

35 The determination of wages and conditions of employment by con-
ciliation and arbitration should be put on an equal footing with
private employees. The Public Service Arbitration jurisdiction will be
abolished and integrated with the Conciliation and Arbitration Com-
mission. The power of dis-allowance of determinations made shall
be removed and Section 66 of the Public Service Act repealed.

36 A uniform 36 3/4 hour week within the Australian Public Service
shall be implemented provided that this does not merely result in an
increase in the amount of regular overtime, and is consistent with
procedures followed in other areas of government employment
where reductions in hours of work to this standard have been achieved.

37 All contracts made by the Australian government, or by authorities of the Australian government, will be required to provide for preference to unionists. Observance of award rates and conditions by contractors and sub-contractors, and the provision, where appropriate, for observance of policies generally applied to the Australian government workforce, will also be required. They will not result in the compulsory retrenchment of government workers. Contracts will not be entered into unless shown that they will not result in the compulsory retrenchment of government workers.

38 All contracts made by the Australian government, or by authorities of the Australian government, will be given only to firms or persons who employ a substantial percentage of day labour and the required proportion of apprentices, and who do not practice discrimination on grounds of race, sex and marital status, sexual orientation, age, religion, political opinion, physical appearance, physical or mental impairment, national extraction or social origin.

39 Efficiency and morale in the Public Service will be restored through adequate funding, the abolition of staff ceilings and the proper staffing of departments and authorities according to need.

40 Australian Government Authorities will establish Pay Roll Deduction of union dues on a contractual basis.

D Work Environment

41 A fundamental requirement of a just system of industrial production is that the work environment be responsive to the needs and aspirations of our workforce. The basic principles which underline Labor’s policy in this area are that—

a the work environment needs to be adapted and designed to suit the people who work in it;

b employers have a basic responsibility to provide a healthy, safe and stress-free work environment;

c workers have a basic responsibility to themselves and to each other to see that the work environment provided by the employer meets their standards of health and safety;

d in order to exercise this responsibility, workers have a right to know what substances (their chemical composition and structure) or processes they are required to work with and the hazards associated with them; and

e peak councils of unions and employers at a national level, and unions and union appointed workers’ health and safety representatives and committees and management at the local level, have the right to participate in the evaluation of hazards.

42 Australia has inherited a system of state-based health and safety
legislation which has resulted in duplication of regulatory power, over-extension of scarce enforcement and technical resources, and lack of uniformity of standards.

Occupational health and safety should be dealt with at the Federal level. However, there may be serious constitutional limitations on the power of the Commonwealth Parliament to legislate in this area. Even without constitutional amendment, a Federal Labor government can do a great deal to promote uniform health and safety standards in the states and territories, and should lead by example through enacting comprehensive health and safety legislation in those areas in which it has constitutional power, such as in the territories and, after consultation with appropriate unions, in the sphere of Commonwealth government employment.

43 A Labor government will enact health and safety legislation which will establish—

a a National Occupational Health and Safety Commission, responsible to the Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations, which will provide a tripartite framework within which hazard criteria and standards can be laid down and enforced within the sphere of Federal government competence;

b a National Occupational Health and Safety Office, again responsible to the Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations, which will draw together existing Federal inspectorates and expertise, and will be responsible for implementing the policies developed by the Commission; and

c procedures whereby unions and workers may be involved with employers in ensuring that workplaces are safe and healthy.

44 The National Occupational Health and Safety Commission will consist of representatives of government, employers and unions together with independent members with specialist expertise. Its principal tasks will be to—

a establish specialist committees to formulate standards, regulations and codes of practice which will have mandatory application in the sphere of Federal government competence;

b in co-operation with the Environmental Contaminants Authority, establish a licensing scheme for new chemicals;

c adopt existing Federal government powers in relation to health and safety;

d draw up model health and safety legislation for implementation by the states and territories; and

e act as an agency to distribute funds to unions and local health and safety groups, to assist them in mounting health and safety programmes.

45 The Commission's policies will be implemented by a National Occupational Health and Safety Office, which will draw together existing Federal inspectorates and expertise, and will have responsibility for enforcing health and safety standards within the Federal sphere in
co-operation with the Environmental Contaminants Authority. Inspectors from the Office will have the powers needed to exercise this responsibility, including powers of entry, powers to test and take samples, powers to prosecute employers (including the Commonwealth) for breach of statutory standards, powers to issue improvement and prohibition standards.

46 The Commission will establish a licensing system for new chemicals used in industry which are involved in interstate or overseas trade or commerce, for implementation by the Environmental Contaminants Authority. With the exception of pesticides, pharmaceuticals and food additives, companies are at present free to introduce a new general chemical into the workplace without making any tests to predict its likely effects on the health of the people who will work with it. The licensing scheme will be based on the following principles—

a licenses will be required for all new chemicals or new uses of existing chemicals (to this end a Register of all existing chemicals and their uses will be established);

b licenses for new chemicals will be issued only on receipt of a satisfactory technical dossier compiled by the supplier setting out full details of tests performed and their results (including short, medium and long-term laboratory testing for cancer or reproductive effects);

c the dossiers to be open to public inspection; and

d licenses to specify restrictions on use as determined by the Office.

Dossiers will be used to compile a computer-based register of toxic effects of chemicals, together with emergency and first aid procedures, to be made available on demand to all legitimate enquirers.

47 It is essential to involve workers and their trade unions in the monitoring and control of workplace hazards, not just at national level through the proposed tripartite Commission, but also at workplace level. At the workplace level, unions and union appointed workers’ health and safety representatives and committees will have rights as may be agreed with the employer individually or provided for in awards and determinations, but which shall include the rights—

a to inspect the workplace at any reasonable time;

b to receive health and safety information from the employer and the Office;

c to represent workers in safety disputes or internal inquiries after accidents;

d to accompany inspectors on inspections of the workplace and receive a copy of any report that they may make;

e to prevent a continuation of work under unsafe or unhealthy conditions pending the arbitration of an Inspector;

f to be consulted on all changes in the workplace which affect health and safety;
g to initiate prosecutions in respect of breaches of regulations where the Office fails to act;
h for the workers’ health and safety representatives to paid time off to carry out their duties, and to participate in relevant training programmes provided by their union and/or TUTA or other appropriate courses approved by the union; and
i to require that the employer establish a health and safety committee.

E Industrial Democracy

Industrial democracy is a natural extension of the democratic right of working people. The greater participation of workers in decisions affecting their working lives will lead to greater job satisfaction and will provide opportunities for the more efficient operation of enterprises.

It is desirable for employers and employees to be encouraged to be involved in genuine industrial democracy projects which achieve a sharing of power and responsibility between management and employees within an enterprise or industry.

These projects should be designed so as to allow for the special needs and features of the industry or enterprise concerned.

A Labor government will encourage and support industrial democracy schemes based on the following principles and objectives—

a the right of workers to have a say and influence in decision-making within the workplace and/or the enterprise without fear of recrimination;
b the active involvement and support of the union movement in the development and operation of industrial democracy programmes;
c access by employees to information concerning the operation and viability of organisations in which they work. A free flow of information is crucial to the success of industrial democracy schemes and will provide employees an opportunity to consider matters important to them in a thorough and reasonable way;
d industrial democracy schemes shall be developed having regard to the individual needs of the industry or enterprise concerned and to the social and human needs of the workers in the industry or enterprise. The schemes may be of a representative and/or participative form.

Representative forms of industrial democracy entail worker representatives being elected by workers in an enterprise to committees, councils, decision-making bodies and boards of the enterprise. Participative forms of industrial democracy involve self-managing groups of workers or semi-autonomous work groups at all levels within an enterprise.
49 In order to promote industrial democracy, a Labor government will—
   a review, in consultation with employers and the union movement, existing legislation so as to ensure that any obstacles to industrial democracy in that legislation are removed;
   b introduce legislation, where necessary and after consultation with employers and the union movement, to facilitate the introduction of industrial democracy schemes based on the abovementioned principles;
   c encourage the development of a positive attitude among management, employees and unions about the aims and objectives of industrial democracy;
   d play a leading role in demonstrating the importance of industrial democracy by instituting and improving industrial democracy schemes in public service departments and in statutory authorities; and
   e appoint an industrial democracy committee to monitor the introduction and development of forms of industrial democracy and to review appropriate strategies and policies.

F The Constitution

A Labor government will seek to use existing powers in the Constitution in order to implement the aims and objectives of Labor's industrial relations policies. If it is found that these powers do not provide a sufficient basis for the provision of a modern, equitable and flexible industrial relations system in accordance with Labor's policies, a Labor government will seek appropriate amendments to the Constitution.

50 In particular, amendments to the Commonwealth industrial power in the Constitution [s 51(35)] may be necessary in order to ensure that—
   a the present Commonwealth machinery for the prevention and settlement of industrial disputes by means of conciliation and arbitration works effectively;
   b unions are not arbitrarily excluded from participation in the Federal system on the basis of the industry in which they operate;
   c industrial tribunals have power with respect to the prevention and settlement of industrial disputes regarding independent contractors; and
   d a Labor government has power to legislate on health and safety in the workplace.

G The Conciliation and Arbitration Act

The Conciliation and Arbitration Act has been subject to continuous ad hoc amendment for a number of years.
The public and practitioners alike are bewildered by its complexity and its lack of coherent industrial philosophy. Labor's policy will involve immediate action to remove obvious deficiencies in the Act and will also establish a major tripartite committee of inquiry to overhaul and review the Act in toto.

51 Immediate Action—
   a the abolition of the Industrial Relations Bureau and as a consequence —
      i the restoration of the Arbitration Inspectorate function within a Department of Employment and Industrial Relations on an adequately resourced basis; and
      ii the enhancement of the advising capacity of the Industrial Registrar concerning the rules and operations of industrial organisations;
   b the encouragement of a better industrial relations environment, with a greater emphasis on the settlement of industrial problems without recourse to sanctions, by the repeal of penalties for industrial action against arbitral decisions of the Conciliation and Arbitration Commission and a prohibition on the insertion of 'bans' clauses in awards;
   c confidentiality of proceedings at compulsory and other conferences convened under the Conciliation and Arbitration Act;
   d the removal of the unreasonable legislative barriers to the amalgamation of registered organisations;
   e the consolidation of the existing Conciliation and Arbitration Act and regulations; and
   f the allocation of additional resources to ensure the more expeditious provision of Commission decisions, awards and arbitration reports.

52 Subsequent action —
Among the changes and issues to be considered in a total review of the Conciliation and Arbitration Act are—
   a the effective operation of the dispute settling system and the need to emphasise the processes of conciliation and direct negotiation as the basis for the settlement of industrial disputes;
   b the repeal of all penal provisions directed at unions and union members;
   c the continued valid, effective and democratic operation of unions as outlined in Section B, Trade Unions;
   d the basis and duration of appointments to the Conciliation and Arbitration Commission;
   e the improvement of job security for employees including the provision of a right to reinstatement in cases of unfair dismissal;
   f the problems of anomalies arising from differing standards of pay and conditions between federal and state awards for the same or similar work; and
the provision of a limited immunity for unions, their officials and members against common law actions in tort brought in respect of industrial action.

53 The terms of reference for the Inquiry into the Conciliation and Arbitration Act and industrial relations in Australia are to be determined through consultation with the ACTU and employer bodies.

H Agreements

Labor believes that—

54 A system of collective bargaining is an essential right of the trade union movement and that good industrial relations will be best achieved by agreement arrived at between trade unions and employers.

I International

ILO Conventions

Australia recognises the importance of the establishment and adoption of International Labor Standards through its continued support and membership of the International Labor Organisation. Accordingly, a Labor government will—

55 Seek to use the influence and prestige of the Australian government as a positive force for the improvement of industrial standards throughout the world and for the benefit of workers and people everywhere by initiating and supporting moves to seek the adoption of new and modern conventions and recommendations.

56 Where Australian conditions meet or exceed requirements of ILO Conventions, take all steps possible to secure the early agreement of the states for ratification of such conventions.

57 Where the decisions of the ILO provide for conditions which are more beneficial than those already existing in Australia, implement such decisions in respect of Australian government employees and employees in the territories of Australia. In addition, take all steps possible to secure the co-operation of the states for ratification of such decisions and their implementation either through legislation or other means, so that their benefits may be enjoyed by all Australian employees.

58 Ensure that Australia is adequately represented at ILO meetings.

Representation

59 In order to improve the understanding of the Australian industrial relations systems among Australia's trading partners and other countries, a Labor government will explore the desirability of representation by the posting of labour attaches in relevant countries or areas.
J Trade Union Training

An efficient, progressive and well-led trade union movement is of crucial importance to all Australians. The education of leaders and potential leaders of trade unions in representative skills and industrial knowledge is a national responsibility.

In recognition of this, a Labor government will ensure that the Australian Trade Union Training Authority (TUTA) has the independence and the resources to conduct extensive and successful training programmes for union officials and members and to attract the confidence and support of the trade union movement —

a guarantee a properly independent TUTA by the provision of sufficient funding and by the restoration of decision-making powers to union training councils having a majority of trade union representation; and

b encourage the provision of adequate paid education leave covering courses run by TUTA or authorised by the ACTU, its branches or affiliated unions.

K Consultative Machinery

Labor recognises the need to expand and strengthen consultation procedures between trade unions, employers and government. Labor will, in consultation with the parties involved, establish the necessary consultative machinery with a view to creating opportunities for genuine consultation and discussion. These objectives would be pursued in part through the review of the National Labour Consultative Council (NLCC) and other bodies.

Labor will also examine the possibility of the establishment of additional consultative machinery on issues which whilst not strictly industrial relations matters nonetheless have industrial implications. These issues could include topics such as environment, consumer affairs, trade and tariff reform.

L Trans-National Corporations

Labor will continue to police international standards set down for the proper industrial relations behaviour of TNC's in Australia. Recognising that international union organisation is an essential step for organised labor to deal effectively with TNC's, Labor will, through and in consultation with the ACTU—

a assist the trade union movement to monitor the global activities of TNC's;

b support international trade union secretariats; and

c consider the provision of financial support for reciprocal international contact between trade unions.
M Research

64 A Labor government will establish within a Department of Employment and Industrial Relations an office of economic and social research incorporating a bureau of industrial information and research which, in consultation with the Statistician, will compile and compute information and undertake research on all matters relevant to industrial affairs for the use of industrial commissions, trade unions and employers' organisations.
15 Industry Development

A Introduction

Labor believes that strong manufacturing and services industries are necessary for the achievement of full employment. Industry can only develop in a stable environment. This means that a broad base of manufacturing activities and skills is essential.

Such a broad base requires manufacturing primarily to cater for our domestic needs. This will minimise the effects of severe disruptions in the international economy and undue pressure from external forces generally. However, an important thrust must also be an appropriate degree of specialisation within industry sectors to achieve more viable and internationally competitive activities.

A strong manufacturing sector with its associated services activities should also be an important direct and indirect contributor to regional diversification, import replacement, consumer choice and reliability of supply. Promoting increased activity based on the relationships among the manufacturing, mining and rural industries, will assist in achieving this result.

Government can and should influence the pattern and rate of industrial development through a co-ordinated process of consultation and negotiation with the trade union movement and the private sectors at different levels in industry.

Labor is particularly concerned to encourage technological innovation, the maximisation of Australian equity and the equitable distribution of benefits of industrial development.

Therefore changes which are necessary should not be left to the dictates of market forces because costs will then be borne by a few and benefits not spread to the many.

Planning, emanating from a process of extensive consultation, negotiation and government involvement, will greatly assist in avoiding disruption, promoting worthwhile change and employment oriented investment, and fairly sharing the costs and benefits of change.
B Industrial Strategy

Labor will pursue an industrial development strategy based on economic planning jointly devised by governments, trade unions and management. Key elements of that strategy will be—

1 A prices and incomes policy augmented by more equitable fiscal and monetary policies which aims to distribute fairly the benefits of, and is essential to, an accelerated rate of development in all sectors whilst avoiding the exacerbation of inflationary pressures.

2 Promoting increased activity based on the interrelationship between the manufacturing, mining and rural industries in Australia.

3 Increasing investment in industries in which Australia has a comparative advantage, due to our inventiveness, skills or natural resource endowments.

4 Stimulating a more dynamic business environment, including promoting competition, by revitalising existing viable secondary and service industries and/or by initiating new ones.

5 Establishing a continuing process of monitoring, consultation and negotiation over, and planning of alteration in, assistance arrangements, the adoption of new technologies, foreign participation, manpower requirements and structural changes in the economy.

6 Promoting and where possible establishing the rights of employees to participate in the process of developing and implementing industry policy at the enterprise level, with particular emphasis on decision making in new technology, employment, work organisation and industrial health and safety.

7 Promotion of Australian equity, both government and private, in industrial enterprises and the regulation of transnational corporations engaged in trade and production in Australia.

8 Forecasting requirements for skilled and other labour and the needs of employees, for the provision of education and other facilities to support identified requirements.

9 Maintenance of a broad base of manufacturing activities and skills, with an appropriate degree of specialisation within industry sectors, and by maximising its input into any downstream activities from the rural and resource sectors.

10 Planning to strengthen regional economies in order to meet domestic requirements and to diversify Australia’s employment base.

C Industrial Development Policy

Labor will—

11 Develop industry by industry plans through a process of consultation and negotiation with trade unions and employers which aim at improving competitiveness, growth, working conditions, employees’ rights and employment performance of such industries.

12 Encourage the development of a more diversified export sector to
reduce the danger of disruption to trade as a result of instability in particular world commodity markets.

13 Co-operate with state territory and local governments to achieve balanced regional development and minimise any local disruption arising from economic change.

14 Provide appropriate government machinery including representation from trade unions and employers, with appropriate secretariat and information backing, for the development and implementation of industry policy, with particular reference to the development of new industries, having regard to overall national economic and social objectives.

15 Where necessary, support by subsidy or trade protection, industries at levels of activity which the government determines are in the national interest whilst seeking over the longer term a reduction in the dependence of such industries on this support. Where government support is given, industries should be subject to the monitoring and negotiation processes outlined above. Specifically, support should be conditional on employers being prepared to negotiate improvements in working conditions, employment levels and consumer benefits.

16 Formulate special plans for certain manufacturing industries which are large employers of labour either nationally or regionally.

17 Promote the establishment of industries based on new technologies and the utilisation or development of natural resources, where necessary through the provision of financial incentives or direct government equity participation.

18 Encourage investment in manufacturing industry through the provision of increased depreciation allowances which are more in line with practices in competing countries, ensuring where possible by agreement that a fair share of the benefits is passed on to employees and consumers in highly concentrated industries.

19 Phase out, where possible, employment taxes and certain indirect taxes and subsidies that discriminate against particular industries and/or employment in those industries.

20 Seek to provide fair and secure trading arrangements, where possible bilaterally, including reasonably stable exchange rates to encourage manufacturing exports. Also, to minimise the possibility of unfair or disruptive import growth, plan and control where necessary the rate of growth of imports.

21 Stimulate the level of industrial research and development activity in Australia through the provision of financial incentives, venture capital and through Australian industry participation and offset arrangements in relation to government procurements. Further, develop arrangements to provide for a higher level of technology transfer, including arrangements which expand Australia's capability to produce new technologies.
22 Ensure the provision of adequate and co-ordinated training and retraining programmes, paid study leave, and redundancy, relocation and income maintenance schemes.

23 Regulate the activities of transnational corporations operating in Australia, particularly with respect to transfer pricing and technology transfer, requiring adequate advance information on geographical relocation or other significant changes in activities to ensure that these companies operate in the national interest.

24 Encourage greater Australian participation in industry, including the injection of equity funds by the Australian Industry Development Corporation, the National Investment Fund and workers’ superannuation funds.

D Business Policy

*Labor will*

25 Legislate for the national regulation of companies and securities and comprehensively reform the relevant codes.

26 Strengthen the Trade Practices Act and Commission to—
   a. prohibit mergers which are likely to lessen competition without offering sufficient offsetting public benefits;
   b. outlaw the abuse of market power directed at preventing or hindering others from engaging in competitive behaviour; and
   c. prohibit undesirable trade practices peculiar to transnational corporations.

27 Re-establish prices justification machinery with a reformed charter by—
   a. requiring prior notification of proposed price rises by companies possessing significant market power;
   b. providing it with the power to independently initiate price enquiries; and
   c. ensuring that prices do not reflect unreasonably high profits or unjustifiable costs.

28 Establish an agency to monitor and regulate all facets of the petroleum products industry.

29 Improve co-ordination between business regulatory agencies to minimise the administrative complexity and cost for industry.

E Small Business

*Labor recognises the special significance of small business as the employer of about 40% of the private workforce. To give greater encouragement to small business development,*

*Labor will*

30 Provide increased access for small business to equity and loan capital at reasonable interest rates including by providing additional funding through the Commonwealth Development Bank.
31 Ensure that small business is protected from price discrimination and other unfair trade practices.
32 Upgrade small business counselling, training and advisory services in co-operation with the states.
33 Seek to reduce the costs imposed on small business through discriminatory charges, taxes and regulations and through unduly high costs of finance.
16 Machinery of Government

A Preamble

The attainment of Labor's democratic socialist objectives and the implementation of Labor's policies must rely significantly on effective machinery of government. A commitment to creative government intervention need not, however, lead to ever growing government bureaucracy. It is crucial that the machinery of government be adaptive, innovative, efficient and democratic. Above all, it must be responsive to public opinion, accountable to the constitutional authority of Parliament and subject to the direction of the Elected Executive.

B Overall Policy Co-ordination and Control

Labor will institute reforms to improve policy development, programme implementation and programme evaluation. These major processes require—

1 A close co-operative working relationship of the Cabinet and Cabinet committees with the Parliamentary Labor Party (Caucus) and its committees.

2 Strengthened Cabinet power, procedures and resources for determining priorities and strategies and for forming, implementing and evaluating policy.

3 Arrangements between ministers and with the public service to ensure that decisions are practicable and can be promptly implemented. Ministers shall require departments and agencies to prepare work programmes for each functional area, identifying priorities, time-tables and resource implications.

4 Strengthened capacity of Parliament to oversee the implementation of laws, policies and programmes, including an effective Parliamentary committee system.

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5 Thorough explanation to the public of government policies and the provision of channels to enable Party, trade union, employer and public user and community group reactions and views on effectiveness of policies to be conveyed to the government.

6 Comprehensive and integrated planning in the allocation of expenditure priorities in the public sector (including the use of forward estimates) and the examination from time to time of the institutional arrangements necessary to achieve this.

7 Co-operative committees to facilitate appropriate consultation and co-ordination with the states, territories and local government where necessary for the full implementation of the government's programmes. There shall be established a co-ordinating capacity to enable the necessary co-ordination, regulation and distribution of information between Commonwealth government departments, required for the effective and efficient implementation of the government's policy.

8 A strong co-operative relationship between the national, state and territory parliamentary Labor parties, the Australian Labor Party and its branches, and the ACTU and the trade union movement. As well as meetings of the Australian Labor Advisory Council (ALAC), regular meetings will be held of union representatives, party officers and ministers and shadow ministers from the various parliamentary parties.

9 The establishment of a system of priorities review to co-ordinate programmes, assess the effectiveness of particular programmes in relation to government policy and initiate regular reviews of overall progress in attaining labor's goals.

C The Public Service

Labor is committed to a public service which is dynamic and adaptive and fully utilises the capacity of individuals serving in the public sector.

Labor endorses the concept of a career service which is responsive to changing community values and needs, and is able to mobilise departmental structures to carry out a Labor government's policies.

A Labor government will—

10 Appreciating the essential political, as distinct from partisan, role of senior public servants and the needs for more flexible and democratic staffing structures—

a guard against any group or department developing itself into an exclusive elite with excessive powers, administrative dominance and/or unwarranted conditions of employment;

b ensure a flexible system of government appointment of departmental heads;
c specifically encourage mobility between and within departments and especially between central co-ordinating and operating departments and agencies;
d develop the process of appointing officers with special expertise, on secondment or contract, to create a more open and responsive service;
e specifically encourage and enable the long and short term exchange of personnel between the Public Service and the private sector, educational institutions, unions, special interest groups and the state services, with recruitment conditions and superannuation provision which allow this mobility;
f while maintaining the merit principle in selection, undertake special programmes of recruitment, encouragement and training to ensure a rapid increase of representation at senior levels of sections of the workforce currently under-represented, e.g. women, migrants and Aborigines;
g abolish the British subject requirement for entry into the Public Service;
h create more open and participatory management structures within departments and agencies; and
i require a Technological Impact Statement on the introduction of new technology in government departments and agencies.

11 Review existing statutory authorities and make necessary changes to ensure their accountability to the Parliament and minister and their adherence to the principles of public administration as set out in this platform. In addition —
   a ensure that when new functions of government are established, that so far as possible these are carried out within ministerial departments; and
   b introduce where appropriate ‘sunset’ legislation to set fixed terms to the life of government authorities to ensure a regular review of their functions and efficiency.

12 Believing that public servants need both authority and responsibility to do their best work, extend the practice of accountable management throughout the Public Service in order to decentralise and delegate a capacity to act effectively, and to encourage individual initiative within departments and agencies.

13 Introduce improved budgeting systems to define objectives clearly and to increase financial responsibilities of programme managers.

14 Support the conduct of efficiency audits and effectiveness reviews on a continuing basis and monitor programmes rigorously to ensure that the programmes achieve their stated objectives.

15 In place of staff ceilings introduce manpower budgeting arrangements to better relate the staffing and establishment management process to government policies and priorities.

16 Ensure the greater devolution from the top, and from Canberra, of decision-making so as to ensure the public service is responsive to the needs of the community.
17 Ensure that, in order to improve government accountability and responsibility, the community has access to government information through—
   a freedom of information legislation with narrow exemptions, including the mandatory release of internal working documents when the Administrative Appeals Tribunal considers it in the public interest; and
   b more open operating procedures and that new staff development programmes are introduced to train public servants for this widened role.
18 Believing that the public service should be open to public participation in its decision-making, establish consultative processes such as advisory boards representative of community views.
19 Ensure the effective operation of the Administrative Decisions (Judicial Review) Act and in particular permit exemption from its provisions only in exceptional circumstances.

Machinery of Government — Resolution

National Conference notes that the Machinery of Government section of the Platform provides that—
"a commitment to creative government intervention need not lead to ever-growing government bureaucracy", and accordingly recommends to the incoming Labor government that all proposals which may involve the establishment or restructuring of public authorities and other non-departmental organisations be considered in the light of the following criteria:—
   a their compatibility with the overall Machinery of Government policy of the Party;
   b the possibility of their functions being performed within the existing departmental structure; and
   c the cost of their establishment in the context of the government’s overall expenditure priorities.
17 Minerals and Energy

A Introduction

Labor's mineral and energy policies are based on the principle of government supervision of Australia's mining and petroleum industries through a policy of clear and consistent guidelines. This policy will be administered in consultation with industry and labour to establish a stable climate for long-life investment that will provide growth to the Australian economy and equitably share Australia's resource based wealth between producers and the community. The aim of the policy is the orderly and balanced development of Australia's natural resources. This is in harmony with Labor's clear and long-standing commitment to the Australian ownership and control of its own industries. Labor's domestic energy policy is premised on the need to improve energy efficiency, to identify new energy reserves in the clear recognition of the finite nature of fossil fuels and of the long lead time required for the transition from conventional fuel to renewable sources of energy.

Accordingly, a Labor Government will—

1 Encourage the growth and expansion of the Australian capital market so that Australian companies can mobilise the capital required to participate in new resource ventures consistent with Labor's broader economic and social objectives.
2 Ensure that the rate and scale of resource development is compatible with our commitment to maintaining a nationally diversified productive base including the promotion of secondary processing of minerals in Australia to provide employment, upgrade the nation's basic infrastructure and improve earnings.
3 Ensure that resource-based regional projects are accompanied by the necessary social infrastructure including housing, public transport, community services and cultural and recreational amenities.
B Ownership and Control

4 Maximise the Australian ownership and control of Australia's mineral and energy resources while recognising the continuing role to be played by foreign capital in the exploration and development of Australian resources.

5 Use its export powers under the Constitution to enforce the following equity requirements in resource development projects—
   a require 51% Australian equity in all new projects, except for companies that are progressively shifting the level of foreign equity downwards in favour of Australian participation at a rate and on terms acceptable to a Labor Government;
   b but in the event that domestic investors are either unable or unwilling to participate in a project considered to be desirable in the national interest, conditional approval may be granted if agreement is reached to lift the level of local equity within an acceptable time frame; and
   c in the event of uranium development proceeding and because of the special circumstances of uranium, require
      i 75% Australian equity in pre-1977 discoveries; and
      ii 100% Australian equity in the development stage of new (after 1977) discoveries.

6 Provide the Foreign Investment Review Board with clearer guidelines to facilitate a more rigorous evaluation of the economic and social benefits and costs of resource projects and to minimise the extent to which minority foreign ownership can exercise control.

7 Permit the AIDC to play a more substantial role as a provider of investment capital and promote, through an appropriate body such as the AIDC, government equity in specific areas of the mineral industry where this is considered appropriate in the national interest, particularly in the provision of industry 'windows' to facilitate the development of government policy.

8 Reimpose restrictions on the capital raisings of foreign corporations borrowing in Australia.

9 Restrict customer equity to less than a controlling interest to ensure the maintenance of arms length relationships in the terms and pricing of mineral exports.

C Environment and Public Review

10 Ensure that all new mining projects comply with the requirements of Labor's Environment Platform.

11 Ensure periodic public review of the scale, character and likely consequences of resource industries.
D Export Controls

12 Use the Australian Government’s power under the Constitution to—
   a plan for the orderly development of Australia’s mineral resources to minimise oversupply situations which result in a loss of national income through lower prices and which lead to a misallocation of resources;
   b supervise and monitor international resource negotiations between mining companies in Australia and overseas buyers to ensure that minerals exported are sold at prices commensurate with the national interest;
   c facilitate at international negotiations the presentation of a unified selling front by companies mining the major bulk minerals in Australia to minimise price and tonnage discrimination against individual producers which may result in a lower level of export earnings across particular industries;
   d establish a unit to closely monitor the financial arrangements and transactions of vertically integrated mineral industries operating in Australia, such as the aluminium industry, to prevent transfer pricing or other practises which may exist to minimise income;
   e improve the data base of the Department of Minerals and Energy to enable the Australian government and the mining industry to base decisions upon the best information available on the state of the international resource market; and
   f support developing countries in establishing improved international commodity arrangements which provide for fair returns to those countries.

E Taxation

13 Establish a secondary profits-related resource tax or taxes or where necessary, as in the event of transfer pricing practices by vertically integrated industries, tonnage-related levies for the following reasons—
   a mineral and energy resources belong to the Australian people;
   b the benefit of these resources should be shared equitably between producers and the Australian community;
   c windfall revenues may result from dramatic increases in world prices for particular commodities, from government pricing decisions, or from the exploitation of exceptionally low cost mineral deposits; but
   d mineral or hydrocarbon ventures with earnings within normal parameters should not be penalised.

14 Consult with the various state and territory governments with a view to rationalising the complex system of state taxes, royalties and charges currently applicable to the resource industries.
15 Amend Federal tax legislation to prevent transfer pricing and other tax avoidance activities practiced by vertically integrated mineral industries and provide the Taxation Commissioner with explicit guidelines to determine the actual level of taxable income.

F Energy Policy

Unlike many industrialised countries, Australia has the capacity for the generation of comparatively low cost electrical energy from its abundant low sulphur coal reserves and its level of insolation provides the potential for solar power development. Australia’s present high level of petroleum self-sufficiency will decline unless further hydrocarbon reserves are identified and conservation measures implemented to effect reductions upon demand. The design of Australia’s cities, the distances between centres and the paucity of efficient public transport will maintain the motor vehicle as the principal transport vehicle in the intermediate term.

Fuel conservation and the provision of liquid fuels for transport must be the central and immediate preoccupation of Australian energy policy. It will involve consideration of substitute fuel for gasoline and the conversion by refining of heavy end petroleum products to lighter end fractions, such as motor spirit, though at the same time energy efficient public transport systems independent of the motor vehicle will be promoted. Natural gas must play an increasingly important role in Australian energy policy not only in the adequate provision of pipeline gas to our towns and cities for cooling, heating and industrial uses, but in the area of liquid fuel substitutes such as conversion to methanol for blending with gasoline or by direct route to petrol. Liquid petroleum gas (LPG) which is in plentiful indigenous supply can also become a significant transport fuel. Labor policy will be directed towards extending our indigenous hydrocarbon reserves by exploration, substitution and synthesis. Research into alternative fuels will have high priority.

Accordingly, a Labor Government will—

16 Implement a National Energy policy which will have as its aim a long-term sustainable indigenous energy economy in which energy resources and technologies are appropriate to the needs and goals of the Australian community and will encompass—

a the treatment of state and regional energy problems on an integral basis with national energy planning objectives;

b policy formulation on a co-operative basis with the states, including state representation on a National Energy Commission; and

c a lead by Commonwealth, state, territory and local governments in efficient energy utilisation with governments occupying the forefront of energy practice synonymous with national energy policy objectives.
G National Energy Commission

17 Establish a National Energy Commission, composed of representatives of the National and state governments, producers and consumers of energy, including representatives of the trade union movement funded directly by the Australian government and be responsible to the Australian government through the Minister for Minerals and Energy, which will —

a advise the Australian Government on the development and implementation of a co-ordinated fuel and energy policy consistent with Labor’s overall economic policy;

b be responsible for planning and supporting a long-term energy research, development and demonstration programme for Australia with particular emphasis on alternative liquid fuel production, energy conservation and renewable energy resources, and in co-operation with the Australian Science and Technology Council be responsible for the national co-ordination and implementation of the programme;

c monitor the exploration, development, transport, price, marketing and use of all energy resources with a view to implementing policies designed to achieve the most suitable energy mix for Australia; and

d encourage the development of new technologies for the conservation, production and efficient use of energy and, assess the impact of particular energy technologies on the social and natural environments and of the overall increase in per capita energy use.

H Energy Conservation and Renewable Energy Sources

Consistent with Labor’s long term aim of a sustainable energy economy, a Labor Government will give high priority to energy conservation and the development and introduction of renewable energy sources.

Accordingly, a Labor government will —

18 Ensure that national energy policy includes specific targets for reductions in energy consumption per unit of output in each sector of the economy and that information on the success in attaining these targets is regularly publicised.

19 Establish standards in co-operation with the states and territories for improvement in the average fuel economy of new road vehicles.

20 Encourage the setting and adoption by appropriate governmental agencies of energy performance standards for all new buildings and energy consuming appliances.

21 Provide a selective range of special financial incentives to homeowners and commercial and industrial enterprises to encourage investment in fuel conservation technologies including those utilising renewable energy sources.
22 Encourage Universities, Colleges of Advanced Education and Technical and Further Education Colleges to develop courses in energy efficient design and practice for the engineering and building trades and professions.

23 Instruct the Australian Bureau of Statistics to expand its work on the collection of data on energy consumption patterns in each sector of the economy, as an essential aid to federal and state energy planning.

24 Ensure that all new buildings built for federal agencies attain high levels of energy efficiency and reliance on renewable sources of energy such as solar heat.

25 Investigate the feasibility of an 'energy conservation retrofit programme' involving the modification of existing buildings occupied by federal agencies so as to optimise their energy efficiency and reliance on renewable sources of energy.

26 Encourage land-use planning throughout Australia which optimises the use of solar energy in buildings, especially by way of passive solar architectural design.

I Petroleum

27 Intensify the national exploration effort for oil and gas through the establishment of firm guidelines and investment groundrules.

28 Establish crude oil pricing arrangements which allow for efficient production from new and existing fields at costs up to import parity. Given the deleterious effects on the economy, such as increased inflation and unemployment and the reduction of Gross Domestic Product resulting from rapid and substantial OPEC price flow-ons, OPEC price increases will not be automatically passed on to old oil production. The pricing policy will, in conjunction with tax arrangements, ensure that proceeds of production from low cost fields are shared on an equitable basis between oil producers and the consuming public.

29 Ensure that the performance of the petroleum production industry maximises the benefits accruing to the Australian community with particular reference to rates of depletion and the acquisition of technological capability within Australia.

30 Design direct measures to encourage the optimum use of LPG in the transport sector and particularly with the Commonwealth's own vehicle fleet and the fleets of the state and local governments.

J Australian Hydrocarbon Corporation

With the exception of the US, all of the oil exporting nations and every oil importing country of consequence have established government companies for active involvement in the oil and gas industry. The abrogation of national sovereignty over oil supplies to
foreign controlled oil companies coupled with growing economic and political nationalism have been the major motivating factors in the proliferation of government oil companies. These factors are also pertinent to the Australian experience but the most compelling argument for direct government participation in the Australian oil and gas industry is the failure of the commercial incentive to produce a national exploration effort of appropriate magnitude. An active and direct government programme of hydrocarbon search is an effective and immediate way of boosting exploration activity. State participation in the oil industry also provides a means for the nation to share fully in the benefits of its own oil and gas reserves without impeding a healthy level of private oil and gas activity. The complexities of geological assessment and the integrated nature of the major oil companies impairs government access and ability to interpret information on oilfields and the inter-company distribution system. Only through participation can government acquire its own direct knowledge of the industry. Government enterprise can enhance the nation’s energy independence whilst providing other benefits as an integrated public oil company.

Accordingly, a Labor Government will—

31 Establish a state organisation to participate in the development of Australia’s oil and gas resources.

32 This organisation shall be known as the Australian Hydrocarbon Corporation and will have a Board of Management responsible to the Minister for Minerals and Energy.

33 The Corporation will have strategic as well as commercial objectives and may engage in any of the activities of an integrated oil company, including downstream activities such as trading, refining and distribution.

34 It will operate independently or in joint venture with private companies.

35 In participation with private companies it will act commercially though where it operates solely it may, in the national strategic interest, explore and locate reserves and yet not develop them.

36 The corporation will be funded as appropriate by Commonwealth grants and loans and by public borrowings.

37 It will provide information and advice to the government to assist in the development of national oil and gas policy.

38 The Australian Hydrocarbon Corporation will not be responsible for the regulation of oil and gas developments. This will be solely the responsibility of government.

K Natural Gas

39 Allow exports of natural gas from the North West Shelf sufficient to justify development expenditure, but not more than should be allowed in the national interest having regard to Australia’s demand for hydrocarbons.
40 Retain the National Pipeline Authority and insist that all new onshore natural gas pipelines are owned and controlled by government — state or Federal — to ensure that gas distribution satisfies national energy policy objectives.

41 Further investigate the economic feasibility of an interconnected trans-continental national pipeline grid to link Australia’s industrial cities with gas producing areas.

L Coal

42 Establish with the states through the National Energy Commission and the state statutory coal authorities, a policy of rational exploitation of Australia’s coal resources, with particular regard to the limited resources of certain types of coal, domestic requirements for coal and the balanced development of Australia’s coal exports.

43 Expand the Commonwealth/New South Wales Joint Coal Board coal reserves and coal marketing arrangements by major foreign interests, particularly oil companies.

44 Operate the foreign investment rules to prevent domination of coal reserves and coal marketing arrangements by major foreign interests, particularly oil companies.

M Infrastructure

45 In consultation with the states through the Australian Minerals and Energy Council, the Loans council and the National Energy Commission, co-ordinate and determine priorities for public sector investment in infrastructure for resource development projects.

46 Undertake with the states an assessment of the pricing policies adopted by public sector authorities for the provision of public services to resource projects with a view towards coordinating the pricing policies for these services.

N Offshore Sovereignty

Recognising that sovereignty over Australia’s offshore resources resides with the Commonwealth, a Labor Government will —

47 Repeal Commonwealth legislation so as to return power over and title in the three mile territorial sea to the Commonwealth Government.

48 Amend Commonwealth legislation to ensure that ultimate responsibility for the administration of the offshore Mining Code resides with the Commonwealth government.

49 But, legislate to guarantee that state governments have adequate powers over state type functions in the territorial sea.
O Geoscience

50 Promote research in geoscience as a basis for resource assessment, exploration and policy advice by—
   a implementing the recommendations of the ASTEC Report on the Bureau of Mineral Resources;
   b supporting investigations into the geology of Australia’s continental margins and the oceans, particularly in the Australian region; and
   c encouraging an adequate and sustained supply of geoscientists.

P Australian Minerals and Energy Council

51 Continue to consult and confer with state and territory governments through the Australian Minerals and Energy Council.

Q Australian Atomic Energy Commission

Notwithstanding the partial reorganisation of the research and development activities of the Atomic Energy Commission undertaken in 1981, the Commission still retains an agglomeration of diverse and conflicting responsibilities and the Atomic Energy Act retains some repressive provisions.

Accordingly a Labor Government will—

52 Divide the current functions of the Australian Atomic Energy Commission by repealing the Atomic Energy Act and replacing it with legislation to establish—
   a an independent regulatory authority responsible for nuclear related environmental protection, health, safety, security, safeguards and other non-proliferation activities;
   b a government corporation to conduct the present commercial activities of the Australian Atomic Energy Commission, such as the production and marketing of radioisotopes; and
   c a nuclear science authority to perform the other nuclear functions currently undertaken by the Australian Atomic Energy Commission in conformity with overall national energy policy objectives as determined by the government.

R Northern Territory Uranium

S Uranium

Recognising that the provision of Australian uranium to the world nuclear fuel cycle creates problems relevant to Australian sovereignty, the environment, the economic welfare of our people and the rights and well being of the Aboriginal people;

believing that, having regard to the present unresolved economic, social, biological, genetic, environmental and technical problems associated with the mining of uranium and the development of nuclear power, and in particular—

a to the proven contribution of the nuclear power industry to the proliferation of nuclear weapons and the increased risk of nuclear war; and

b the absence of procedures for the storage and disposal of radioactive wastes to ensure that any danger posed by such wastes to human life and the environment is eliminated;

It is imperative that no commitment of Australia's uranium deposits to the world's nuclear fuel cycle should be made until—

a a reasonable time has elapsed for full public debate on, and consideration of, the issues;

b the ALP is satisfied that the abovementioned problems have been solved; and

c the Australian Government endorses Recommendation 6 of the First Fox Report which states—

"a decision to mine and sell uranium should not be made unless the Commonwealth Government ensures that the Commonwealth can at any time ... immediately terminate those activities, permanently, indefinitely or for a specific period."

Accordingly, a Labor government will —

54 a declare a moratorium on uranium mining and treatment in Australia;

b repudiate any commitment of a non-Labor Government to the mining, processing or export of Australia's uranium; and

c not permit the mining, processing or export of uranium pursuant to agreements entered into contrary to ALP policy.

This policy will be implemented in the light of the following —

55 The ALP's approach to uranium policy is dominated by its concern that the economic, social, biological, genetic, environmental and technical problems associated with the nuclear industry are unresolved and that uranium is a source material leading to nuclear armaments proliferation, which poses the most serious threat to world peace yet experienced and to Australian sovereignty.

56 We have remained steadfast in our opposition to the growing propensity for reliance upon the nuclear fuel cycle as a source of energy and for other commercial and military applications.
57 The development of the nuclear fuel cycle has delayed the development and application of passive energy technologies more suitable to our fragile global environment.

58 The uncritical support of nuclear technologies by governments worldwide encouraged the nuclear industry to develop before the fundamental questions of safety, disposal techniques, effective regulatory and safety systems were tackled and which still remain unresolved.

59 The acceptance of nuclear power as an energy alternative by developing countries has not only presented these countries and the world with a substantial safety and surveillance problem but has provided many with the option of becoming nuclear weapons States adding to the dangers of increased armament proliferation.

60 Labor believes the development of a nuclear weapons capability from civil nuclear programmes is the most distressing feature of nuclear power, and one which requires the most urgent and earnest international attention.

61 Australia is not a producer of nuclear power but is involved in the international nuclear fuel cycle as a supplier of uranium.

62 Despite widespread concern in the community, the opposition of the Australian Labor Party and the trade union movement, commitments have been made by previous governments to certain corporations operating uranium mines in Australia and to the governments of customer countries, to maintain Australia as a uranium exporter.

63 We recognise on becoming government—
   a we will inherit an existing position of Australia under the Fraser government of having made treaties and authorised contracts of supply of uranium to a growing number of countries with little effort to impose controls and conditions on supply;
   b an incoming ALP government is already committed to repudiate all existing commitments. In adopting our repudiation commitment an ALP government has neither a moral, legal, or political obligation to compensation to the industry as such;
   c understanding the difficulties which could be encountered in the implementation of that commitment our minimum position would be a total unequivocal commitment to phase out Australia's involvement in the uranium industry and that certain conditions as outlined will and must be applied to those mines existing in production as of July 1982; and
   d as an ALP government we give total commitment to preventing any new mines from being developed during our period of office.

64 Accordingly, a Labor government will—
   a make a total commitment to exerting all possible influences on the development of creating effective international arrangements covering nuclear non-proliferation treaties, waste disposal, arms control and nuclear disarmament;
b review bilateral safeguard agreements governing supply under these contractual arrangements and, if necessary, renegotiate these agreements to impose conditions relating to the nuclear practices of the customer country (e.g. the cessation of French atomic testing in the Pacific area);

c consider applications for the export of uranium mined incidentally to the mining of other minerals on a case by case basis and on the criteria of whether in the opinion of a Labor government the mining of such minerals is in the national interest; and

d allow no new uranium mine developments to commence or come on stream whilst the government of Australia.

65 In government if the only recourse is to implement a policy of phasing out the industry as of July 1982, the following conditions will be applied—

a miners, producers and users of the products of the nuclear fuel cycle accept responsibility for developing effective waste disposal mechanisms, satisfactory safety and occupational health conditions, proposals and funding for the decommissioning of nuclear plants and also provide financial assistance for the development of safe alternative energy sources;

b measures are adopted in the international Atomic Energy Agency and elsewhere not only to improve the technical efficiency of existing safeguard systems but also to establish new and multilateral approaches to a reduction in nuclear proliferation and to more effective control of existing nuclear facilities;

c satisfactory arrangements have been developed for the storage or disposal of the products of uranium mining, low level waste such as equipment or material contaminated by radioactivity, spent fuel, plutonium and depleted uranium as products of reprocessing and high level waste separated by reprocessing;

d arrangements have been established by mining companies, in cooperation with national health authorities, for health screening and study of employees, both while employed and for a period considered by medical authorities as being necessary, to detect the incidence of disease related to exposure to radioactivity; and

e not permit the treatment, storage, or enrichment of nuclear materials in Australia nor domestic use of nuclear power. Whilst opposed to the establishment of domestic storage and treatment systems, Labor will support the development of safe long-term nuclear waste disposal technology for application to existing waste problems.

66 Consistent with clauses 63b and 63c an Australian Labor government will adopt the process of phasing out our involvement in uranium mining, and certain conditions will be imposed upon the producers in accordance with this policy and we will utilise our right to apply trade embargos to ensure these conditions are met.

For example, any contract with the French government could only
be contemplated subject to that government ceasing all nuclear testing programmes in the Pacific.
For example, any contract with the Japanese could only be contemplated subject to them withdrawing from their intention to dump waste material in the Pacific.
For example, any contract with the Finns would be subject to our being satisfied beyond all doubt that the supply of uranium was not being deflected into the nuclear fuel cycle and nuclear arms programme of the USSR.
For example, any contract with Great Britain would be subject to our being satisfied beyond all doubt that the supply of uranium was not being used to assist in developing nuclear armaments.
For example, any contract with the West Germans would be subject to them ceasing the supply of technology and equipment to countries such as the Argentine which is leading to the establishment of yet another potentially nuclear armed country.
Any such conditions will apply to purchasing countries over and above existing international safeguard agreements being agreed to and observed.
The principles inherent above which apply to specific markets will be applied in relation to contracts to any other countries, arising out of the production of current mines, within which similar circumstances arise.

67 Labor is committed to reversing the direction of nuclear developments worldwide. As part of this Commitment, a Labor government will undertake appropriate research and provide assistance to the energy impoverished nations of the world to find energy solutions which are more suitable to their decentralised populations and which are a real alternative to reliance upon large blocks of expensive centralised nuclear generation with extensive reticulation grids.

68 Labor will take steps in international forums such as the International Energy Agency to promote a fair distribution of available energy resources so that the rich nations are precluded from placing inordinate demands upon the world’s scarce and finite fuels.

69 Nations must also be convinced that their interests are best served persisting with energy systems which utilise their indigenous fuels and decrease their dependence upon the international oil trade, transnational oil companies and the merchants of nuclear power.

70 As part of its comprehensive approach to uranium policy and its concern for the gravity of the international outlook for peace and security, Labor will monitor the nuclear activities of other countries and their propensity to develop weapons capabilities. In tandem with its monitoring programme and to reduce the prospect of a nuclear war, it will indefatigably pursue a policy of international arms control and disarmament.
71 If in implementing this policy opportunities for employment are affected on a regional basis then provision will be made for adjustment assistance, compensation and alternative employment opportunities to those workers, and the provision of financial assistance to an alternative means of economic development for those Aboriginal communities adversely affected will be guaranteed.

72 On a regional basis, the provision of special assistance to those local economies adversely affected by the implementation of the policy will be given to facilitate the implementation of alternative policies for economic development.

73 In adopting the view that the onus and responsibility to meet the conditions as outlined rightly belongs to the miners, producers and developers we determine that an Australian Labor Party government will have neither a moral, legal, or political obligation to compensation to the industry as such. The responsibility is theirs to meet the above necessary and reasonable conditions. It is not the responsibility of government.

74 Finally, no revision of this policy with the view of allowing the industry to develop further will be undertaken by the Australian Labor Party until and unless all of our unresolved concerns related to the industry are satisfactorily resolved and agreed to by the ALP National Conference.

T Nuclear Power

75 Prohibit the establishment in Australia of nuclear power plants and all other stages of the nuclear fuel cycle.
18 Primary Industry

A Introduction

*Labor recognises that—*
Primary industry plays an essential role in the Australian economy, is a major provider of export income, provides the economic base for much of rural and provincial Australia and makes a substantial contribution to the well-being of the whole community.
Rural policy must be an integral part of overall social and economic policy and directed towards meeting the needs of the entire population.
Farm ownership by owner-operators is the most widespread operating structure in Australia and farm owners should be neither favoured nor disadvantaged relative to other business sectors.
Primary producers should be rewarded by returns and income for their production so as to provide a standard of living not below the accepted standards of the rest of the community.
The level of primary production should, as far as possible, be related to the food and fibre needs of Australia, to realistic domestic and overseas market demand and should be in line with the long term economic trends in markets for primary products.

B Economic

Labor believes that general economic questions, such as interest rates, access to finance, the exchange rate, taxation, the level of inflation, differential levels of protection, have a greater effect on the rural sector than the implementation of commodity-specific economic policies.
Inter-sectoral economic pressures on the rural sector are creating stresses such as record high interest rates and problems of access
to the finance necessary for the sector to adapt to changed economic circumstances.

Consequently, A Labor government will—

1 In framing the general economic policy be cognisant of the impact on the rural sector.
2 Maintain access to finance for the rural sector via existing institutions where it is shown that the conventional banking system has failed.
3 Review the adequacy of special taxation provisions.
4 Examine the adequacy of tax deductibility and tax rebates in meeting stated policy objectives.
5 Wherever possible, direct rural industry assistance through grants and subsidies in preference to tariffs.
6 Campaign internationally to lower barriers to agricultural trade.

C Production and Development

A Labor government will—

7 Commission a White Paper on primary industry and/or review the 1981 general inquiry (the Balderstone Committee), with particular reference to inter-sectoral pressures, prospects for new methods of production and avenues of growth and development.
8 Seek to reduce the risks involved in primary production and to provide a more stable and predictable economic environment in which producers can plan for the future.
9 Support demand-supply management legislation for those industries which request such assistance.
10 Ensure that world trends and prices for agricultural commodities be constantly monitored and promptly published in order to provide maximum information for farm decisions.
11 Encourage new entrants into farming by way of training people in farm techniques, skills and management in keeping with the view that the role of Government should be to plan the development of agriculture and its relationship with other business ventures.
12 Upgrade Australia's public plant breeding programmes in conjunction with the states and will not introduce plant variety rights without the most searching public enquiry based on evaluation of Australia's plant breeding needs and of all other alternatives.
13 Monitor the purchase of rural land by overseas interests and take whatever action is necessary to stop undesirable aspects of such acquisition.
14 Examine ways and means of facilitating non-commercial agricultural enterprises.
D Marketing

Labor supports efficient and properly accountable statutory marketing authorities with adequate powers and levels of staff to manage the collection, sale, promotion and export of Australian primary products, where appropriate.

A Labor Government will—
15 Introduce measures, where necessary, to improve the bargaining position of farmers in the market place. In co-operation with state and territory governments, it will introduce legislation to provide for close scrutiny and supervision of contractual arrangements and provide for arbitration procedures which would protect producers from exploitation.
16 Strengthen and enforce the exclusive dealings provision of the Trade Practices Act to ensure that farmers are protected from the adverse effects of ‘tied arrangements’ which bind the purchaser to buy other goods and services from the same supplier.
17 Where requested by a primary producer organisation representing an industry, review existing marketing legislation in consultation with the industry, and establish statutory marketing authorities. These shall represent producers and, where appropriate, other major groups in the industry. They shall if necessary, have power of acquisition.
18 Negotiate long-term international agreements to provide greater and more predictable access to overseas markets for Australian agricultural commodities and technical expertise.
19 Encourage the development and growth of overseas markets for Australian primary producers by—
a establishing an Australian government agency to co-ordinate and facilitate the sale of Australian primary products and assist with service facilities to countries dealing on a government-to-government basis;
b appointing where appropriate agricultural attaches and marketing intelligence officers;
c encouraging the promotion overseas of primary products; and
d providing infrastructure assistance to importing countries.

E Rural Co-operatives

A Labor government will support—
20 The formation of voluntary marketing groups through which farmers can command a better price for their products.
21 The involvement of farmers in commercially viable co-operative processing of farm produce.
22 Production co-operatives involving small groups of farmers in the joint ownership of machinery and other means of production to encourage a more efficient utilisation of financial and physical resources at the farm level.

23 The initiation of an interim programme of management training for board members.

24 An investigation of the potential for uniform co-operative legislation similar to the Uniform Companies Act.

25 The commissioning of a comprehensive Australia-wide study of co-operatives including their legislative backing, financial structure and management with a view to having more efficient co-operatives.

F Income Stabilisation

Recognising that tax penalties can arise from fluctuating incomes, Labor supports primary producers' tax averaging and income equalisation deposits.

To achieve greater stability in farmers' incomes over the long term, Labor will—

26 Establish in conjunction with co-operating state governments and insurance companies, a pilot regional income insurance scheme.

27 Assist low income farmers wishing to remain on their properties on retirement by offering annuity schemes as part of the Rural Adjustment Scheme.

28 Provide farm household support to relieve cases of temporary financial hardship.

29 Provide for flexible repayment of rural loans by consultation and encouragement within existing lending structures.

30 In co-operation with the states and territories, ensure adequate compensation for victims of natural disaster.

G Rural Adjustment

Labor believes rural adjustment assistance is a means of improving the economic efficiency and viability of farm enterprises, and of promoting the mobility and productivity of resources employed in the rural sector and recognising the need for adequate reconstruction, counselling services, retraining and on-farm retirement schemes, and other welfare benefits deemed necessary to assist in the adjustment of farm families unable to remain viable in agriculture;

A Labor government will—

31 Continue to support the provisions of the present Rural Adjustment Scheme.

32 Initiate greater liaison and consultation with the states to monitor the impact of the scheme with a view to achieving greater uniformity in its administration.
33 Examine in close consultation with the states, the establishment of Regional Redevelopment Authorities in rural communities where sudden and prolonged changes in the pattern of demand for a product on which the local economy depends, causes severe economic and social dislocation and creates special adjustment needs.

H Research and Extension

Recognising that effective extension is necessary to ensure that research results, information and management advice are readily available to primary producers;

a Labor government will—

34 On request from grower organisations in smaller agricultural industries, provide research staff from the Bureau of Agricultural Economics to assist with marketing, production and structural adjustment planning.

35 In co-operation with the states and territories, extend rural research beyond the technology of production to community based research including the economics of marketing and production and the social consequences of change.

36 Support research into improving the energy efficiency of agriculture and the provision of alternative fuels.

37 Ensure that CSIRO and other institutions are adequately funded and structured to carry out research into bio-technology.

38 In co-operation with the states and territories, develop a co-ordinated approach to the provision of extension services across Australia.

39 Support the establishment of a national journal on agricultural extension.

40 Support the establishment of computer bureaux and computer based information systems to provide production and marketing information at the farm level.

I Community Services

Labor recognises the restricted access by country people to community services in the areas of education, training, transport, health, housing, communications and the delivery of benefits and welfare services.

In keeping with its general attitudes on such issues, Labor believes that provision should be made so that services in rural and provincial Australia are at levels and standards generally accepted throughout the community.

Labor will develop and co-ordinate its range of policies in these fields so that no disadvantage occurs and will develop specialist institutions and programmes where these are seen to be necessary. Labor recognises the particular affect that the pricing of petroleum
products has on the operating costs for primary producers and the costs of living in country areas. Labor will review the operation of the Petroleum Freight Subsidy and the Petroleum Products Pricing Authority to ensure that the price of petroleum products in country areas is held as close as possible to the prices in city areas.

J Resource Use and Conservation

A Labor government will—
41 Give urgent attention to the need to maintain viable agricultural production in the land surrounding our major cities.
42 Encourage the maintenance and restoration of expendable resources of soil, water, air and forests.
43 Encourage the establishment of State Rural Land Use Commissions to review and report on the conservation, reclamation and use of all rural land.
44 Establish in conjunction with the states and territories a Committee of Inquiry into land degradation with a view to recommendations for remedial action and improved management practices.
45 Accept a joint responsibility with the states and territories to examine and, where appropriate, to act on the recommendations of the 1978 joint study into Soil Conservation in Australia.
46 Establish an Institute of Freshwater Studies to investigate water quality and, as a matter of priority, to specifically advise on the equitable and effective management of the River Murray system as a national resource.

K Forests

A Labor government will—
47 Determine the environmental, social and economic costs and benefits of harvesting our existing forest resources and developing new forests.
48 Encourage the development of forestry as a farm undertaking for production of timber for processing.
49 Develop policies which will provide a balance between economic, ecological and recreational needs for our forest resources.

L Fisheries

Recognising that Australian fisheries are a common property resource to be managed for the maximum benefit of the people of Australia;

a Labor government will —
50 Take steps to ensure that the maximum sustainable annual harvest is linked to the number of economically viable fishing units, consistent with the needs of recreational fishing and the marine environment.
51 Where fishery resources have been over-exploited, increase industry returns by schemes such as the buying back of boats in over-fished areas.

52 Establish management policies of fisheries resources with the states and territories.

53 In co-operation with state and territory authorities, investigate ways of—
   a simplifying the licensing procedures for those in the fishing industry;
   b providing extension services and training for industry personnel;
   c investigating the economics of fishing operations and the sociological effects of measures taken to regulate fisheries exploitation;
   d developing marketing and fish processing techniques; and
   e collecting research data on the biology, population dynamics and ecology of the various commercially important fish species.

54 Without prejudice to the existing fishing industry, establish Australian and joint international projects to exploit the 200-mile economic zone for control over fisheries.

55 Treat the fishing industry as a primary industry in terms of all existing and future legislation generally applying to primary industry.

56 Develop formal and informal consultation on the fishing industry between the industry and the Commonwealth.

M Quarantine

Labor will review existing quarantine procedures in the light of current medical, veterinary and horticultural knowledge, and relate these to the representations of primary industry organisations.

N Organisational

Labor will—

57 Transfer all elements of animal health to the Department of Primary Industry.

58 Adequately staff the DPI and BAE to service the fishing industry.

59 Provide adequate funds for rural research in the CSIRO.

60 Establish procedures to review and co-ordinate agricultural research and extension.

61 Support the IAC, the TPC and the re-establishment of the PJT.

62 Set up a National Meat Inspection Authority.

63 Enforce adequate codes of practice for animal welfare where Commonwealth responsibility is involved.
Primary Industry — Resolution

Conference expresses its concern at the deliberate campaign of distortion and misrepresentation of the ALP’s stance on the question of The Superphosphate Bounty and the Nitrogenous Fertiliser Subsidy by certain sections of the rural media. Conference fully backs the Federal Parliamentary Labor Party’s written undertakings to the Fraser government that it is prepared to support retrospective legislation when the Parliament resumes, guaranteeing a continuation of both the Bounty and Subsidy for a period of three years to the end of June 1985.
19 Science and Technology

A Policy Principles

The Australian Labor Party—
1 Asserts that the Australian people have the right to make democratic choices about technologies to be adopted, their ownership, rates of adoption and appropriate social responses.
2 Rejects the prevailing philosophy of 'technological determinism' that is, the concept that nations have no alternative but to adopt particular forms of technological change, and will monitor the impact of new technology, and develop means to cushion adverse social effects.
3 Adopts a pluralist approach to technology, and will pursue that mix of technologies most appropriate to satisfying individual needs in a healthy economy, for example recognising that selectivity in the introduction of labour-displacing technology may involve distinguishing between 'new' and 'old' industries, or with policies to be adopted towards labour-intensive industries in specific areas.
4 Rejects the colonial model of technology transfer which has been adopted in Australia in which high technology is overwhelmingly under foreign ownership.
5 Declares that Australia must assert its own technological sovereignty and reverse the declining capacity of individual nations to determine their own economic goals in a global economy. Foreign investment guidelines must be amended to ensure transfer of technology into Australian control and arrangements to expand Australia's capability to produce technologies at the leading edge of development.
6 Expresses its support for technologies which complement and enhance human capacity, dignity and diversity.
7 Declares that the introduction, ownership and control of high technology should not be left to market forces alone.
8 Recognises that decisions made in Science and Technology policy areas will have significant impact on education, social security, communications, manufacturing industry, urban and regional development, and industrial relations both in Australia and abroad. Major decisions should be made after considerable public debate and not left to expert, professional elites operating in isolation.

9 Recognises 'Information' as a resource, a critical factor in production and economic growth and that 'Information workers' now comprise the largest single employment sector in advanced economies.

10 Acknowledges that—
   a legislating for free access to and exchange of relevant information based on technology assessment as a result of a requirement for full disclosures; and
   b public scrutiny of planned changes, are more likely to be successful than setting up regulatory authorities.

11 Adopts the concept of setting 'limits to throughput' rather than 'limits to growth' to reduce waste and avoid excessive use of material resources.

12 Recognises that rising levels of investment in higher education and R & D have a decisive impact on increasing both the quality of life and economic standards.

13 Will promote excellence in science even where there is a low probability of an immediate or short term economic return.

B Research and Development

A Labor government will—

14 Collaborate with industry to provide appropriate incentives to raise total investment in selected areas of socially constructive research and development, to the equivalent of other technologically advanced countries.

15 Require foreign owned corporations in Australia to invest appropriate sums in R & D and to give Australian enterprises access to foreign owned technology.

16 Extend eligibility for Special Research Grants (now limited to universities) to projects in all branches of tertiary education.

17 Encourage excellence in a diverse range of pure research projects through the Australian Research Grants Committee.

18 Establish a national research, development and innovation division within the Department of Science and Technology to advise the government on—
   a R & D grants to industry;
   b co-ordination of government supported R & D generally;
   c ways to improve industry through technological innovation;
   d directing support to programmes which increase the ability of Australian owned firms to capitalise on technologies which increase employment in new fields, particularly those based on natural resources and requiring a high skill content;
e co-ordinating government impact on high technology industry through its roles as customer, supporter of R & D and financier;
f working with existing industries, and through industry based committees, to encourage them to make an adequate contribution to R & D — either within their own enterprise or by contributing to a common fund (with the benefit of tax incentives and priority access to innovations); and
\[\text{g assisting industries with the development of research discoveries and the preparation of patents where appropriate.}\]

19 Extend eligibility for Industrial Research and Development Incentive (IRDI) Grants to all types of computer software.

20 Provide for IRDI grants to to be tax free.

C Technology Transfer

21 Seek the transfer of technology to Australian control in areas of foreign exploitation of our natural resources, while encouraging the intensive development of indigenous technology, as illustrated by Norway's rapid advance in offshore oil-rig technology.

22 Develop arrangements with foreign suppliers for the transfer of technology development capability to Australia in order to promote appropriate new industries and services. Included in such arrangements will be measures to enable Australian management and labor to gain necessary skills, to provide for the storage and processing of information in Australia and means for the production in Australia of capital goods.

23 Examine existing technology agreements with a view to reducing costs and limitations on local use, and encouraging the development of intermediate or labour intensive technologies where appropriate.

24 Liaise with other countries and with Australian-owned companies to develop a pool of information on prices, technology agreements and related issues.

25 Examine the long-term implications of highly sophisticated and integrated technology on Australia's capacity for local control and national autonomy.

26 Ensure that overseas controlled 'high technology' industries operating in Australia pay levels of taxation not less than those paid by Australian owned enterprises.

D Venture Capital for New Industries

27 Participate with and seek the collaboration of trade unions and private enterprise in joint ventures by providing risk capital, facilities and expertise as required and as seems appropriate to establish new industries based on scientific and technological innovation.
28 Assist small business enterprises selectively, in high, intermediate and existing technology by setting up an investment fund to provide risk capital either on the basis of public equity or by government loans.

29 Support whole technologies rather than the manufacture of isolated components so that Australia is encouraged to develop integrated and comprehensive technological skills.

E Monitoring Technological Innovation and Sharing any Benefits

30 Require the provision of broad industry-by-industry technology assessments so that parliaments, trades unions, employer groups and concerned citizens are made aware of the nature and extent of proposed technological changes, especially the effect on jobs and can take part in appropriate consultative processes, including public enquiries as directed by a Minister.

31 Provide that prior information about proposed technological changes shall be given by its proponents to appropriate unions to allow informed negotiations on the proposed changes.

32 Provide that when technological change increases productivity any consequent benefits are shared equitably throughout the community.

F Raising Levels of Public Understanding, Community Involvement and Political Response

33 Initiate a continuous public information campaign in an attempt to demystify scientific processes, to raise levels of community understanding about science and technology so that the Australian people and their political representatives can be directly involved in choosing between options and determining priorities.

34 Establish a Joint Parliamentary Standing Committee on Science and Technology to raise the levels of consciousness of Members of Parliament and to enable the Parliament to take an active and informed role by debating specific subjects and in helping to determine relevant national policy in this area.

35 Establish machinery to assist and inform the public and decision makers by way of adversarial reports on specific matters, as has been undertaken in the United States by the Office of Technology Assessment, and by stimulating public discussion of the long term implications of technologically based social change as has been achieved by the Commission for the Future in New Zealand.

36 Expand and rotate membership of the Australian Science and Technology Council (ASTEC) to enable it to act as a planning council to examine medium-term implications of technological based social
change, act as a focal point for a process of consultative planning, and to submit advice to governments on general or specific priorities.

37 Recognise the need for greater scientific knowledge and data availability in areas pursued by significant community movements, such as consumer affairs and environmental areas, and ensure that government science bodies respond to these needs.

G · CSIRO

38 Maintain the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) free from Public Service Board control.

39 Encourage CSIRO to diversify its research activities in new fields such as information technology, safety, transport and the environment.

40 Encourage CSIRO to disseminate public information reference services directly to the community, where appropriate.

41 While recognising the priority of the National Health and Medical Research Council, lift any arbitrary exclusion of CSIRO from pursuing areas of biological research which have human health implications.

42 Ensure that new technologies developed by CSIRO are used to promote export potential and high technology employment in Australia.

H Promoting International Information Exchange

43 Strengthen Australia's participation in international scientific activities, including science representation in foreign missions and UNESCO, promoting scientific exchange agreements and encouraging interchange of scientific personnel.

I Antarctica

44 Encourage investigation of scientific, marine, freshwater, meteorological and other resources in Antarctica.

45 Upgrade the existing facilities and provide financial support for new research projects especially in the fields of hydrology, glaciology and climatology.

46 Organise an international scientific conference with the participation of all countries claiming rights or already having bases on Antarctica in order to co-ordinate and reassert our leading role on the continent.

47 Encourage more flexible deployment of activity in the Antarctic rather than concentrating on the development of the existing bases.
J Marine Science

48 Pursue comprehensive knowledge of the oceans in the 200 nautical mile (370.4 km) 'exclusive economic zone' (EEZ) surrounding Australia.

49 Replace the Australian Marine Sciences and Technologies Advisory Committee (AMSTAC) with an Australian Marine Sciences Council and expand its terms of reference to recommending national policies.

50 Expand the functions of CSIRO’s Division of Oceanography and the Australian Institute of Marine Science.

K Priorities

51 Support and encourage industry participation in constructing the ‘Australia Telescope’, CSIRO’s radio synthesis telescope at Culgoora, and for Australian participation with Canada and the U.S. in the ‘Starlab’ orbiting optical telescope, with a view to using IRDI grants to encourage development of a sophisticated instrumentation industry.

52 Review the law and procedures relating to patent rights in biotechnology.

53 Legislate to provide where possible for computers to be rated to measure their labour displacement capacity.

54 Establish an annual award for scientific achievement promoting the welfare of the peoples of the world, to be known as ‘The Australia Prize’ to be worth not less than $100,000 (tax free) when first awarded and indexed thereafter and to be administered by the Australian Academy of Science.

55 Promote professional mobility between the academic, industrial, government and defence sectors of science by lowering administrative barriers and introducing superannuation portability for scientists, engineers and technologists and by encouraging personal contacts between the academic world and industry.

56 Build an all-weather airstrip in Antarctica to allow all-year access to Antarctica’s bases and promote the acquisition of an ice-breaker supply ship.

L National Information Policy

Recognising that in an era of rapid technological change access to information is a precondition to national or personal autonomy, the Australian Labor Party adopts the following National Information Policy—

57 All Australians are entitled to free access to information and library services of acceptable standard, regardless of where they live, of their social and economic position, language, sex, age, mobility or physical disabilities.
58 The effective working of democracy depends on the availability of adequate information and the capacity for its independent evaluation. The right to know, to be informed, is basic to every person. In our society access to information is a vital resource of government and of the public, and should not be concentrated in the hands of the rich.

59 The Australian community is divided between the 'information rich' and the 'information poor'. Information facilities are remote from those who need them most. They do not know what is available and do not know how to remedy their lack of information.

60 Growing inequity in 'information transfer' threatens the position of individuals relative to governments and corporations. Increasing volume of available information due to new methods of gathering, storing and disseminating may lead to —
   a increasing tendency towards specialisation and the fragmenta-
      tion of knowledge;
   b a growing sense of 'alienation' and 'anomie' in many people who feel unable to understand what is going on around them;
   c a risk that power will move towards technocrats and away from representative institutions; and
   d a major threat to privacy from personal data files in private hands.

61 Information problems should not continue to be treated in the narrow perspective of science and technology, and left to scientists and experts alone, but should be considered in the broader context of knowledge and social welfare in which information is a fundamental resource.

62 Governments must plan for the new technologies and ensure that information systems are not developed in a chaotic fashion for exclusively commercial reasons.

63 Legislation should define and codify —
   a the right of access, where this is in the public interest, of individu-
      als or public or private bodies to relevant non-government informa-
      tion resources;
   b the political and social guarantees which individuals and institu-
      tions can legitimately expect, including protection of privacy and professional secrecy;
   c the basic rules of reciprocity which should govern relationships between public and private systems and networks; and
   d a code of ethics for professions and industries concerned in this field.

64 The provision of public library and information services should remain the collective responsibility of the Commonwealth, state, territory and local levels of government, funded in part by each.

65 Public libraries must become information resource centres, includ-
   ing local data banks, information about access to government
services, with greater emphasis on non-book material such as gramophone records, tapes, cassettes, microforms and audiovisual material generally.

66 The expansion and extension of all library and information services should be achieved through co-operation and/or contract and the formation of library systems and networks with each service retaining its autonomy within the overall state plan for the development of these services. Already existing information services should be co-ordinated and integrated to avoid duplication and waste of resources.
20 Social Security

A Introduction

The aim of Labor's social security policy is the prevention and elimination of poverty and social disadvantage through a system of benefits and services based primarily on need.
To redress present inequalities social security initiatives will be co-ordinated with other government policies to redistribute income, wealth and general community resources.
Particular regard will be paid to the following principles—
the importance of positive employment policies and the recognition that social services should complement, not substitute, for paid work;
the preservation of dignity, self-respect and independence of those assisted;
the definition of rights to benefits including the right of review and appeal on all decisions;
the guarantee of individual privacy, confidentiality of personal information and access by individuals to information held on their files;
the participation by the users and providers of financial support and services in the development and delivery of programmes;
the consideration, where appropriate, of traditional or chosen lifestyles;
the promotion of research and the evaluation of all policies and programmes;
the co-ordination of planning information and service delivery among government departments to reduce the fragmentation of services and overlap of responsibilities at all levels of government; and
the acknowledgement that the needs of claimants are paramount to the administration of a social security system. Information and counter services should be readily accessible to the public, where appropriate in multi-purpose offices, and with adequate translator and interpreter support for people not fluent in English.
B Income Support

Labor's eventual aim is the establishment of a universal minimum income scheme to provide an adequate standard of living. Employment policies and a fair taxation system will be supplemented by the provision of social security payments.

_Labor will—_

1. Provide social security payments according to need for disadvantaged persons, such as the aged, invalid, disabled, sick, unemployed and lone parents, sufficient to maintain an acceptable standard of living.
2. Preserve the real value of pensions and benefits by automatically updating payments whenever award wages are indexed or at least twice-yearly to compensate for inflation and ensure social security recipients benefit from national productivity gains.
3. Pay regard to the impact which the additional costs faced by certain sections of the community may have in reducing their capacity to enjoy an acceptable standard of living without further assistance from an appropriate level of government.
4. Maintain the present system of family allowance payments, with increased benefits to low income families.
5. Co-ordinate income tests and fringe benefits at all levels of government so that as their other incomes rise, social security recipients do not suffer financial disadvantage.
6. Consider a special allowance for the recipients of social security payments living in isolated areas similar to taxation zone allowances.
7. Labor acknowledges that in recent years a range of benefits have been either frozen or held down to completely unrealistic levels and will take action to rectify these inequities.
8. Establish, in consultation with the states, local government and voluntary agencies, a flexible system of emergency aid for people in need.
9. Establish by law the right of individuals to payments, with departmental guidelines to be made public.
10. Give independence to social security appeals tribunals with power of decision on all determinations of appeals.

Reciprocal Agreements

11. Labor will accelerate and finalise negotiations started by the previous Labor Government to achieve reciprocal social security agreements with countries from which our migrants originated.

C National Compensation and National Superannuation

12. Labor will develop, in co-operation with the states, a national compensation scheme on a no-fault basis, with universal coverage for all injury and for work-related injury and disease.
13 Labor will introduce a self-supporting portable national superannuation scheme providing entitlements to cover all persons and which could be integrated equitably with existing superannuation schemes.

D Personal and Community Services

14 Labor will aim to work co-operatively with states, territories, local government and voluntary agencies to develop personal and community services which will—
   a assist people to maintain and develop their independence;
   b provide information, advocacy and skill-sharing programmes to develop the capacity of individuals and self-help groups to meet their own needs and assist others; and
   c encourage, where appropriate, the integration of community services in multi-purpose centres, small enough to allow users to develop a sense of participation and community, such centres to serve both local neighbourhood and community of interest groups.

Private organisations providing community services run for commercial profit will not, as a general rule, receive government subsidies.

Federally funded non-government community services will be given sufficient funding to ensure that paid workers can receive at least the appropriate award wages. These wages should be comparable to similar occupations in other areas of employment and such funding should be indexed to maintain the level of wages paid.

People with Disabilities

Labor recognises that people with disabilities are people with special difficulties in getting their ordinary needs fulfilled, and that the aim of such services should be to enable them to participate in society to their capacity. Labor will provide—

15 Domiciliary care services to people in their own homes to maintain their independence and autonomy.

16 Aids to independent living, including the availability of services which would enable many of those now institutionalised, or likely to be, to maintain themselves in the community.

17 Rehabilitation and training services to maximise skills and capacity for personal care, social activities and paid work.

18 Services and resources which would allow those able to find paid work the necessary supports to make this feasible.

19 The maximum participation of those with disabilities in the planning, management and staffing of services.

20 Support for carers of the disabled, e.g. parents, including specialist services and respite care.
Aged People
Labor believes people past retirement age should have security of income and services which would allow them to enjoy their lives and leisure.

Labor will provide—
21 Services for the ageing which will enable them, if they wish, to retain independence within their own neighbourhoods and including support for people caring for the aged.
22 Community care facilities, including activity and therapy centres, respite and day care, to relieve the burden on carers, and in conjunction with health services, enable people to remain at home as long as possible.
23 Alternative accommodation for those who need on-going support or medical care, allowing them to maintain their dignity and autonomy.
24 Involvement of the ageing in the planning and administration of services provided.

Homeless People
Labor recognises that domestic violence, family crisis and breakdown, transient living and housing problems have created an increased need for accommodation for the homeless. The following programmes should not be seen as alternatives to an adequate income maintenance or housing policy.

Labor will—
25 Provide an appropriate mix of crisis and short-term accommodation with support services and encouragement to self-help.
26 Provide for an expansion of present services for women, youth and the more chronically homeless.
27 Ensure, in co-operation with housing authorities, access to appropriate medium and long-term accommodation.

E Children
A Children's services Programme under a Federal Labor government will provide services for children 0 to 15 which complement the care they receive from parents. Access to community child care is a right, and the aim of such care is to provide all children with developmental and social activities in safe surroundings provided by skilled and caring people for the range of hours which meets the children's needs and those of their parents/carers. Children's services should be federally-funded and community-based and should be financed by subsidies rather than tax deductions or rebates.
This will be achieved by—
28 Allocating resources on a planning model based on needs rather than the present submission-based model which favours the articulate.
29 Negotiating agreements with states and territory administrations on an overall planned distribution of capital and recurrent contributions — including consideration of those contributions made by community groups and local government authorities.

30 Moving towards a program based on multi-purpose centres at the local level or other appropriate sites such as the workplace. Such centres will provide long day care, sessional services, full day care, occasional care, family day care and shift care, where appropriate. Provision will be made for out of school hours care for those children of school age. Where possible such services will be integrated under one management and share staff resources.

31 Providing an overall subsidy to all approved non-profit services, which will guarantee quality care and which will allow services to be provided at a cost that can be met by a majority of users. The subsidy will be linked to approved staff salaries and indexed to cover compulsory wage rises. Additional needs payments will be provided so that all children can have access.

32 Planning and funding the provision of services for minority groups which meet the special needs of such groups in terms of language, culture and special needs.

33 Providing additional funding, where necessary, to integrate disabled and other children with problems into normal programs, or providing separate services for such children where appropriate.

34 Ensuring that the users of a service take part in the management of the service so that a service reflects the real and varied needs of the users.

35 Providing the incentives for the better use of existing resources so that expansion of services can be made without unnecessary additional capital expenses.
21 Tourism

Introduction

Labor recognises that tourism is a major contributor to the Australian economy. In spite of the fact that tourism generates as much wealth as the mining industry and is this country's largest employer its capacity and potential to expand have remained largely unrecognised by governments. Tourism is labour intensive. The growth of tourism offers a wide range of employment opportunities especially for groups affected by economic downturns; women, the young, immigrant communities and the unskilled.

Australia is in a unique position to expand its tourism industry. We believe that technological change which leads to shorter working hours and greater leisure time makes tourism a major growth area. Because of its diverse nature tourism offers a major stimulus to decentralisation and prosperity to small business. The economic returns of tourism are not the only justification for its promotion. The right to holidays is a natural consequence of the right to work. Tourism offers alongside its economic, educational and social benefits a means of assisting Australians to appreciate their national heritage and of fostering better relations between Australia and other nations.

Recognising all of these factors and in order to stimulate the growth of tourism a Labor government will—

Fares
1. Promote the concept of a set fee off-peak, unlimited stop-over air fare valid in Australia for a period of 30 days, (similar in concept to
those already in existence in Europe and the U.S.A.) for the use of Australian and international travellers.

2 Negotiate with international airlines and Qantas the introduction of south-east asian regional holiday packages for international travellers with Australia as a last port of call.

3 Encourage more innovative fares on both domestic and international scheduled flights.

4 Explore the opportunities for increased international air charters where it can be shown that they would promote a genuinely 'new' market.

5 Negotiate with airlines, state and territory governments, A.N.R. and coach operators, to promote the concept of an all inclusive 'air-rail-coach' ticket which will enable all Australians, for a set fee, to travel anywhere for a period of three weeks.

Low Cost Accommodation

6 Provide funding to create more facilities for people who otherwise would be unable to afford their holidays.

7 In co-operation with the state, territory and local governments, private non-profit organisations and the Commonwealth Accommodation and Catering Services Limited, finance on a $1 for $1 basis, the building of low cost accommodation facilities.

8 Assure that facilities subsidised with Government grants will be made available to the poor and disadvantaged on the basis of a means test.

Tax Concessions

9 Retain the existing tax concessions available to the industry and review the depreciation allowances.

Travel Agents

10 Encourage the states to introduce uniform legislation for the registration of all travel agents in Australia.

11 Introduce a 'model' registration for travel agents in the A.C.T. on which other state legislations can be based.

Overseas Airlines

12 Encourage overseas airlines to promote Australia as a tourist destination.

Man-Made Attractions and Convention Centres

13 Encourage and wherever possible provide finance or generous loans for the development of man-made attractions including interpretive facilities and review the depreciation allowances.

14 Assess the adequacy of convention facilities presently available, encourage the improvement of the existing facilities and the development of new projects.
Roads
15 Co-operate with state governments and departments of transport to improve the quality of roads and highways that service Australia's major tourist destinations.

The Role of Federal and State Governments
16 Formulate a long-term national policy on tourism, in co-operation with the states and territories and the tourist industry.
17 Assume the sole responsibility of promoting Australia overseas after consultation with the states and territories.
18 Encourage state governments to assume major responsibility for the promotion of tourism within Australia.

Australian Tourist Commission
19 Restructure and broaden the role of the Commission in line with the promotion of tourism as a major industry.
20 Provide increased funding and more realistic staff levels to establish representation in a greater range of overseas countries.
21 In conjunction with the states establish information offices at Australia's international airports, major railways and bus terminals including foreign language information and signs.

Ownership of Tourist Facilities
22 Promote the development of publicly owned holiday resorts and tourism facilities through the agency of organisations such as TAA and Qantas.

Tourism in the A.C.T.
23 In consultation with the State Government of N.S.W. upgrade the railway services leading into the A.C.T. in order to make Canberra a more accessible tourist venue.
24 Encourage the hotel industry to build an additional major international hotel incorporating convention facilities of international standards.
25 Investigate the feasibility of establishing an international standard casino and entertainment centre in Canberra.
26 Introduce a dynamic marketing programme to establish Canberra as a major tourist venue.

New Ministry
27 Recreate a Ministry of Sport, Leisure and Tourism.
22 Transport

A Introduction

Labor believes that—
The provision of adequate, efficient transport services at minimum cost is essential—
a for a community, in that it facilitates progress, competitiveness and the financial viability of domestic and international trade; and
b for the individual in that it offers access to employment, educational, health, retail and recreational facilities.

Public passenger transport performs a valuable social and economic function by providing greater personal mobility, satisfaction and diversity of lifestyle within the community.

Public passenger transport provides an important supplement for households which run a car and is the sole means of transport for many groups in the community — those engaged in full time homemaking, children, students, unemployed and the disadvantaged.

Transport systems and services should be designed to maximise social benefit to the community. As market forces often operate imperfectly and are restricted in their scope, they should not be the sole determiners of the type, location and quality of transport services provided.

Accordingly, Labor’s transport policy utilises a social audit approach to the evaluation of transport projects and services, in which costs and benefits are based on full consideration of economic, environmental, social, defence and resource allocation criteria and the following major objectives.

Economic objective—
to provide access to raw materials, goods and services; to provide passenger transport adequate for desirable national development and individual mobility at least cost to the community;
Environmental objective—
to minimise environmental and health damage by full inclusion of such costs in evaluation of projects and the introduction of adequate emission control and safety standards for motor vehicles;

Social objective—
to provide freight and passenger transport services that are adequate to enhance co-ordinated national development and balanced in terms of industrial diversity, urban, regional and rural development, employment generation, personal mobility and integration of forms of transport;

Resource objective—
to encourage the most efficient use of national resources, including energy, time and space;

Defence objective—
to provide a co-ordinated transport network capable of servicing current and anticipated strategic and defence needs, particularly in remote areas of the country.

A social audit approach would therefore foster development of an efficient transport system based on a full analysis of costs and benefits of transport services.

B Organisation, Funding and Charges

Labor will—

1 Establish an Interstate Commission within the terms of Sections 101 to 104 of the Constitution—
to investigate discriminatory practices, inequalities, inefficiencies and anomalies in interstate transport;
to publish findings;
to make recommendations to the government; and
to promote by consultation the development of national transport policy.

2 Make grants to the states to enable them to operate, co-ordinate, expand and upgrade public passenger transport systems and to assist them to provide rail and port facilities for export commodities.

3 Continue the funding and construction of new railways to unserviced regions where required and where justified.
Upgrade and maintain to a national standard, designated railway routes of national importance, including the completion of the programme of standardisation of inter-capital links.

4 In consultation with local government, road transport and motorists’ organisations, initiate discussions with the states to formulate agreement for the development of a national funding scheme to finance road construction and maintenance, replacing state motoring and road transport charges now levied for this purpose.

5 Establish or maintain publicly owned business under-takings to provide air and surface transport services in Australia and internationally.
Encourage these undertakings to participate in all facets of the transport and travel industries to counter the emergence of undesirable market practices.

6 Develop a comprehensive national policy covering the carriage of inter-system railway freight.

7 Establish an airports authority to plan, develop and operate the major airports and ensure the provision of low cost, connecting surface transport with adjacent cities and towns.

C Public Participation

8 Promote consumer and employee discussion and participation in the provision, development and improvement of transport services.

D Research and Planning

9 Encourage experimentation with alternative forms of transport designed to improve safety, efficiency and mobility and to reduce space requirements, pollution and energy wastage.

10 Assist the states and territories by providing grants for transport planning and research.

11 Review the effects of the existing airlines policy to ensure that air travel, as a principal mode of long distance public passenger transport, is accessible to as wide a range of the community as possible.

12 Promote the introduction of minimum cost air services and an expanded range of innovative air fares.

13 Encourage the introduction of combined air-rail-road passenger fares.

E Shipping

14 Expand the operations of the Australian Shipping Commission.

15 a ensure that an equitable share of our overseas trade is carried in vessels that are Australian owned or controlled and Australian staffed; and

16 Ensure that all coastal trade is carried in Australian owned and manned vessels.

b provide financial incentives for the expansion of Australia's international shipping fleet.

17 Build and/or operate any facilities and services relating to railways, shipping, aviation and pipelines as provided by the constitution or transferred to the Australian government by a state.
18 Maintain full financial responsibility for the construction and maintenance of the national highway system.
19 Make grants to the states for the construction and maintenance of other roads, including bicycle paths.
20 Initiate procedures in association with state and local governments to ensure that federal road grants for local government are passed on in full to their intended recipients.

G Transport Standards and Safety

21 Establish a National Transport Safety Board to investigate—
   a all accidents involving civil aircraft; and
   b all accidents involving Australian government transport enterprises or occurring under federal jurisdiction.
22 Encourage the states through the Australian Transport Advisory Council to—
   a enact uniform road laws, driver licensing procedures and traffic practices throughout Australia; and
   b implement the Australian code for the transport of dangerous goods by road and rail.
23 Establish a Roads Safety and Standards Authority to promote—
   a effective road safety campaigns; and
   b research into safe operation of cars, trucks, motor cycles and bicycles.

H International Conventions

24 Promote the conclusion, ratification and application of transport conventions under the auspices of the UN and its specialised agencies.

Transport — Resolution

That Conference is critical of the decision of Ansett Airlines of surface passenger buses from major airports, many of which have no alternative public transport facilities. It asks that the operators concerned reconsider this decision and asserts that the provision of such services at reasonable cost should be a condition of route licensing.
23 Urban and Regional Affairs

A Introduction

Principles
The main objective of Labor's urban and regional policy is to achieve coordination of resource allocation decisions in order to promote balanced and sustainable growth in appropriate locations. This growth will allow for an equitable improvement in the quality of life for people where they work and where they live. Labor's urban and regional policies are designed to influence the nature and location of public and private sector fixed capital investments; to ensure acceptable standards in the provision of community amenities, housing and employment opportunities; to promote equality of access to social facilities and services; to conserve socially-valued environments made by people and nature; and to reduce wasteful uses of resources. Labor believes that urban and regional planning is an essential ingredient of all effective policy measures requiring full cooperation of Federal, state, territory and local governments, open negotiation between the public and private sectors and the participation of local community groups. Labor's approach is predicated on the belief that, for purposes of equity and efficiency, the development and management of human settlements requires comprehensive planning so that people are decently housed in areas which are physically serviced to standards expected of a civilised society and that they are provided with adequate access to employment, social and cultural opportunities as an integral part of their living environment.
Concerns
Labor believes that a concerted effort is required to achieve national social and economic cohesion at a time when an unco-ordinated shift in the pattern of economic and industrial development is leading to fragmentation and alienation within our community. Australia needs a renewed commitment to urban and regional planning in order to cope with the critical backlog of neglect in established human settlements, the pressures for structural change, the emerging demographic pressures and the anticipated resource constraints.

Backlog of neglect
More than two thirds of Australia’s 15 million population is concentrated in seven cities. Economic inefficiencies and social inequalities in those cities are aggravated by the past neglect of coordinated urban decision making, the over-centralisation of central business districts and the shunting of lower income families towards the fringe suburbs which have inadequate community amenities, public transport and job opportunities. Many existing urban services are in need of rehabilitation and the newer suburbs lack even basic services.
There are physical, social and economic limitations on population expansion in those cities, yet there remains a manifest failure to redress the relative disadvantages of rural cities and towns.

Structural change
Australia’s economic structure is undergoing far-reaching changes as the post-war industrial development strategy of import replacement is being abandoned in favour of export expansion. Concentration of ownership in our agricultural and pastoral industries, increasing import penetration, technological changes and restrictions in public sector activities are combining to reduce employment growth and to erode the viability of some established regions. Large investments in natural resources projects in a few regions, together with the development of resorts for retirement and tourism, are inducing shifts of population which require new investments in housing and in community amenities and services. There is a need to co-ordinate, influence or redirect these changes, to strengthen the economies of declining regions and diversify the economies of expanding regions.

Demographic pressures
Australia’s population is projected to reach approximately 20 million by the turn of the century and will include a more diverse ethnic mix and a higher proportion of aged persons. About 5 million Australians — one third of the present population — are under twenty years of age and will progressively form their own households which will require accommodation and associated services. Governments face the challenge of determining how and where to house this
changing population, how to provide real income security, employment and equitable access to services.

**Resource constraints**

Australia faces the prospect of an uneven and unstable pattern of economic growth and the need simultaneously to address problems of growth in some sectors and problems of stagnation in others. Under these circumstances national attention needs to be given to questions of equity in wealth distribution and efficiency of resource allocation. Duplication of effort on the part of different levels of government and private organisations together with the passing on of private development costs to the public sector, strain the financial resources available for meeting the needs of people in urban and regional settlements. Failure to plan in anticipation of interrelated problems imposes social costs which are the more expensive the longer they are neglected. Australia also faces limitations on the use of non-renewable resources and needs to undertake development programmes in ways which promote energy conservation and reduce wastage.

**B Urban and Regional Coordination**

*A Labor government will—*

1. Work closely with the states and territories in developing cooperative arrangements for urban and regional policy making within the context of national economic and settlement planning.
2. Use its powers in co-operation with the states, territories, local government and the private sector to co-ordinate the location of jobs and functions with changing population patterns, to promote sustainable employment growth, housing security, equitable access to community services, energy conservation and environmental quality.
3. Use its power over foreign investment and taxation policy to combat speculative dealing in land and property in particular to seek to prevent foreign purchase of large tracts of rural land.
4. Develop and monitor an Urban and Regional Budget Programme in co-operation with the states and territories to coordinate the resources allocated for investment in urban and regional works and services by the Australian, state, territory and local governments.
5. Promote wider community participation in making decisions relating to the development and management of cities, regions and rural communities.
6. Establish a Department of Urban and Regional Affairs, concerned with the impact of private and government decisions on the living conditions of the Australian people, and have responsibility for implementing Labor’s Urban and Regional policies.

The functions of the Department would include—

a. in participation with other relevant departments, national co-ordination of resource allocation and investment in fixed social
capital, with particular regard to land use, housing, transport, employment location, recreational and cultural amenities, developed in cooperation with the respective departments and authorities, with the states, territories and local government; ongoing development and dissemination of an information base to assist urban and regional planning and to assess the social impact of investment proposals and decisions; promoting effective liaison between the Australian, state, territory and local governments; and providing support for local and, where appropriate, regional groups concerned with social development and local enterprise initiatives.

C Urban Improvement

A Labor government will—

7 Coordinate property investment and development programmes by both the Australian government and its instrumentalities and by foreign companies and insurance companies in order to ensure a balanced pattern of urban development.

8 Assist the states to achieve selective urban consolidation in ways which do not disrupt the social cohesion of established areas.

9 Assist the states, territories and local government and, where appropriate, regional organisations of councils, to undertake select urban area improvement programmes.

10 Encourage and, where appropriate, require the public and private sectors to provide, in major commercial developments such as office blocks, community and recreational facilities for use by office workers and, where appropriate, the general public.

11 Encourage state governments to focus urban development away from the central business districts of large cities to select suburban locations on the public transport system in order to improve the equity of access to employment, social and cultural opportunities, to achieve an efficient spread of the transport load over the system and to stop wasteful expenditure on inner city freeways and inner city car parks.

12 Ensure that investment in public transport is given priority and that all investment in land transport is consistent with—

a the urban and regional development strategy developed in cooperation with the respective departments and the states and territories;

b a policy of energy conservation and use of renewable energy resources; and

c a recognition of existing major air and noise pollution problems resulting from over-dependence on road-based private transport.

13 Investigate the applicability to Australia's major cities of overseas urban public transport innovations with particular reference to outer suburban requirements and connections between major transport routes and modes.
D Land Use

A Labor Government will—

14 Intervene in the land market, through co-operative arrangements with the states and territories, to ensure that the supply of land is adequate to meet demand and that land for urban development passes through public ownership as it is converted from rural to urban use.

15 Co-ordinate the activities of all Land Commissions and Urban Land Councils in accordance with the principles of Labor's urban and regional strategy.

16 Establish strict safeguards to prevent the waste of public funds in land purchases, and require that rural land destined for urban development be purchased at rural prices.

17 Seek to ensure, through bilateral agreements with the states and territories, that in disposing of land—
   a in growth centres or land help by Land commissions or Urban Land councils, residential land be freehold subject to improvement conditions and reservation of development rights;
   b commercial and industrial land be held on a leasehold basis, subject to an annual land rent with periodic review; and
   c government land be held on a leasehold basis, subject to a premium lease payment.

18 Improve, in co-operation with the states, territories and local government, the inventories of urban and rural land ownership and use.

19 Assist the states and territories to assess the availability of open space in major cities.

20 Assist local government authorities to identify the present and potential uses of underdeveloped or disused urban land and property.

E Regional Development

Recognising the need for integrated policy development in relation to Australia's provincial centres and rural towns, a Labor Government will act through its various departments and authorities to make stronger regional development a priority of its social and economic programs.

A Labor government will—

21 Co-operate with the states and territories to strengthen regional economies, ensure a viable and diversified employment base in provincial centres, and improve the access of people in rural areas and provincial centres to employment, social and cultural opportunities, through—
   a conducting a national public inquiry into the problems and possibilities of established provincial cities and country towns;
b establishing within the Department of Urban and Regional Affairs a Regional Development Task Force to liaise with state and territory authorities for the purpose of supporting existing regional organisations and, where appropriate, promoting the growth of local and regional development boards to work in co-operation with local authorities, business unions and community groups to—

i develop economic and industrial strategies appropriate to the area;

ii undertake research and feasibility studies;

iii acquire and develop land for industrial and commercial uses;

c decentralising, where appropriate, Australian Government services and employment to major rural cities and regions, and encouraging the decentralisation of state and territory services, provided that—

i the relevant unions and employees affected are required to be consulted before any transfer is made;

ii employees who may, after a full process of consultation, be required to transfer their place of living and employment in order to retain an appointed position, be given adequate notice so that all necessary personal and family arrangements can be made; and

iii employees of national state and territory organisations affected by decentralisation or transfer programs, who for personal or family reasons do not wish to change their place of living and employment, be given reasonable alternative employment opportunities, where practicable, in their existing work centre,

d assisting the upgrading and expanding of community amenities and services which are influential on decisions for the location of investment, which are themselves employment generating, and which improve social and cultural opportunities;

e using industry assistance policy to provide incentives or concessions to private undertakings appropriate to the desired industry structure of a region in order to encourage decentralised location of enterprise;

f using federal government powers over foreign investment to achieve a higher degree of technology transfer, industrial research and development and training programs suitable for decentralised location;

g promoting downstream processing and fabrication of natural resources in new locations consistent with Labor's national industry development strategy;

h supporting research and development, consistent with Labor's national energy plan, of viable small and medium scale energy industries, such as solar power generation, in appropriate locations;
i supporting viable cooperative processing of farm produce, consistent with Labor's primary industry policy, encouraging the production of crop fuels and undertaking projects to conserve the natural resources of water, soil and forests;
j investigating the feasibility of adopting more uniform standard charges, such as telecommunication charging for calls and connections.

22 Encourage decentralisation to, and growth in, major rural cities where natural growth occurs, and where development is in accordance with national economic and settlement planning, and the following principles—
a the full cooperation and agreement of state and territory governments will be obtained before implementing accelerated growth for rural cities;
b priority to be given to rural cities under existing Australian and state and territory government programs aimed at improving amenities and services.

23 Ensure that adequate social amenities and services are provided in areas of natural resources development, negotiating with the territory and the states to see that the costs of provision are fairly shared between developers and public authorities.

F Housing

Statement of Principles
The Labor Party believes that every Australian resident has the right to adequate and appropriate accommodation at a price within his or her means. Conversely, residential development should be directed towards a variety of housing types commensurate with the differing needs of people of different ages, family circumstances and cultural values.

Labor believes that housing should be developed to ensure access to a range of services and community facilities.

Housing accommodation should provide the occupants with security of tenure, reasonable autonomy of action and privacy. This should apply equally to owner-occupied houses and tenanted housing whether publicly or privately owned.

Labor's housing policy is designed to ensure that assistance is provided to families on low and moderate incomes in achieving home ownership and meeting costs of rental accommodation. It also maximises the degree of choice offered to the individual regarding types of housing, tenure and location.

Labor believes that in an economic climate of escalating interest rates and unfair competition for capital resources, action should be taken to protect present home buyers and prospective first home purchasers.

Accordingly, the de-regulation of the banking industry is inappropriate and contradictory to the provision of adequate housing funds at rates purchasers can afford.
Labor believes that the public sector has a vital role to play in the provision of housing which is wider than a narrowly conceived welfare role. The public sector can be expected to compete in terms of efficiency and in terms of humane management practices in meeting housing needs.

The national government has a responsibility to ensure an adequate and stable flow of funds for, and to maintain employment opportunities in, the building industry. To this end, Labor believes that the housing industry must be stimulated both to meet the demands for accommodation and to obtain the flow-on effects which would be beneficial to the rest of the economy.

Labor believes that the achievement of these goals and the development of an effective national housing policy requires the closest consultation between the Australian, state, territory and local governments, unions and the housing industry.

**National Housing Policy**

24 A Labor government will develop a national housing policy within the framework of national economic and population planning and aimed specifically at—

a improvements in research for forecasting of future housing needs;

b assessment and monitoring of housing conditions including physical conditions, provision of amenities, occupancy rates and residential density throughout Australia;

c coordination of existing Commonwealth funding for housing programmes, including the raising of existing Commonwealth support for housing to realistic levels;

d encouraging the participation of institutions, local government, regional and community groups in the identification of housing problems and in the planning and implementation of comprehensive housing policies; and

e preparation of a Green Paper on housing problems, policy and finance; to form the basis of further development of a Labor government’s goals and objectives.

**Cooperation with state, territory and local governments**

25 The National Housing Policy will involve the federal government in joint undertakings at the state, regional and local level with a view to—

a encouraging local initiatives in the provision of housing through local government, regional groups, cost-rent associations and housing cooperatives;

b removing inconsistencies in standards, requirements and regulations which impose higher costs without significantly enhancing amenity; and
c assisting in the development of experimental and low energy housing projects using alternative planning and engineering standards while maintaining standards of accommodation.

Housing Initiatives

26 A Labor government will undertake a number of new initiatives to assist and promote access to home ownership and provide an adequate supply of low cost rental accommodation, through—

a Housing Finance Initiatives—

i federal government regulatory powers, especially under the Banking Act, Part IV of the Financial Corporations Act and the Life Insurance Act, will be used to help secure adequate investment funds for housing by encouraging depositary institutions to invest adequate minimum proportions of their funds for housing;

ii securing the cash flows necessary to maintain production and sale of housing, and to assist home ownership, consistent with need, in desirable environments;

iii establishing a secondary mortgage market to buy and sell mortgages on terms laid down by the Australian government, to provide greater stability to the home finance market;

iv encouraging the introduction of new mortgage schemes, such as deferred repayment, and introduce new forms of assistance to first home buyers to bridge the deposit gap as alternatives to the present Deposit Assistance Scheme;

v supporting innovatory rental housing schemes such as cost rent associations, housing co-operatives, joint public and private schemes and lease-back agreements;

vi developing measures to assist home renters to overcome the economic disadvantages they suffer as compared with home owners.

b The Commonwealth State Housing Agreement

Re-negotiating the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement with state governments in order to—

i ensure that state housing authorities are provided with increased funding and continuity of funds on a three-year basis; with the object that the proportion of the total stock of housing held in a variety of public tenures is doubled within 10 years;

ii increase the supply of public rental housing through the use of funds for construction and rehabilitation programmes and the acquisition of existing housing in a variety of locations and house types;

iii move towards the abolition of eligibility requirements for public housing whilst in the short term giving priority to low and moderate income earners;

iv abolish ‘market’ rents for public housing and move towards rents based on the cost of providing the housing;
v introduce a Commonwealth-funded minimum national rental rebate system based on tenants’ capacity to pay;
vi improve the management of public housing stock, encourage consultation with housing consumers and develop a tenants charter;
vii ensure public housing authorities are funded to provide adequate community services; and
viii prohibit the use of advances from the Commonwealth for mobile or manufactured housing or manufactured housing estates;

C Rural Housing
acknowledge that the Commonwealth has a role to play in the provision of rural housing and investigate suitable methods such as—
i initiating a housing programme for sale or rental for primary producers and rural dwellers according to their needs, preferences and incomes at standards comparable to those in cities; and
ii encouraging local authorities to act as agents for state housing authorities in the construction and provision of public housing for rural dwellers;

d Home Improvement Programme
introducing a national Home Improvement programme administered through state, territory and local governments to—
i provide funds for state and local authorities to undertake assessment of local housing stock; and
ii assist householders on a means tested basis with loans for repairs and maintenance.

G Local Government

Labor is committed to the recognition of local government as a genuine partner in the Australian government system. Labor will work to have its rights and responsibilities recognised in the federal and state constitutions and to have it represented on the Council for Inter-government Relations. Labor will seek local government’s support for the inclusion of a representative on the Loans Council and for power to borrow on its behalf.

Consensus on local government responsibilities
27 Labor believes that, while recognising the diversity within and between states, local government should have its responsibilities more clearly defined. Labor will therefore initiate, in consultation with the states and local government, an inquiry into the desirable range of functions and methods of financing local government operation.
Revenue sharing
28 Labor will allocate annually at least 2% of the Federal personal income tax as a general revenue grant to local government; the allocation in any year to be not less than the real value of the previous year's allocation.

Principles of division of revenue sharing grants
29 The general revenue grant will be shared between local government as follows—
a 30% of the allocation to be shared between all local governments on an equal per capita basis;
b 70% of the allocation to be shared between local governments after taking due account of—
   i disabilities in the revenue base or capacities of the area;
   ii expenditure disabilities, such as the council area's demography, topography, geography and geology; and
   iii the relative needs of the area’s population and the level of services available to them (especially those provided by the council).

The Australian Grants commission
30 In cooperation with the states the Australian Grants Commission will call for applications for general revenue grants. It will make public its advice to the Federal government.
31 The Australian Grants Commission panels examining local government needs in each state will include state and local government nominees. Provision will be made for public submissions.

Local Government and Special Purpose Grants
32 In addition to a general revenue grant Labor will allocate special purpose grants and loans—
a to those local governments and regions which have a demonstrated need arising out of resource development pressures, concentrations of unemployed, recent migrants or low income groups, or where an area is critically deficient in community facilities;
b to local governments seeking to upgrade and expand housing stock for low income groups. A minimum proportion of Commonwealth States Housing Agreement funds will be earmarked for potential local government use in areas of high housing priority; and
   c to local governments establishing viable economic enterprises at a local or regional level, especially those which contribute to sustainable employment growth.
Administrative Support Services

33 Co-operation with state, territory and local governments will be expanded to develop—
   a local level current information services on public finance, economic activity and employment, and social conditions;
   b regular reporting by major federal ministries of the impact on local government of their activities; and
   c staff exchange and training assistance.

H National Estate

A Labor government will—

34 Ensure the annual funding of projects through the Australian Heritage Commission to preserve, protect and enhance the National Estate, using as the guides for financial assistance the register of the National Estate compiled by the Australian Heritage Commission and registers compiled by any equivalent state bodies.

35 Seek to achieve, through the Australian Heritage Commission, the Australian National Parks & Wildlife Service and related state and territory organisations, a system of well-managed national parks, reserves and wilderness areas which protect adequate and representative examples of all Australia’s diverse environments and the genetic material they contain.

I Development of Northern Australia

36 Recognising the importance for Australia of the development of its northern regions a Federal Labor government will establish a task force under the direction of the Prime Minister to—
   a Plan and co-ordinate in co-operation with the state and northern territory governments the development of Northern Australia;
   b Examine and review the impact of Federal and state government policies on the economic and social development of Northern Australia;
   c Examine and recommend changes to Federal government taxation policies as they affect the cost of living in Northern Australia;
   d where appropriate recommend the decentralisation of those functions of federal government departments and instrumentalities relevant to the administration and development of Northern Australia.
Urban and Regional Development — Resolution

This conference is alarmed at the effects of the deliberate policy by which the Fraser Government — supported by compliant and incompetent State Liberal administrations — has confiscated from many Australians the ability to retain or purchase their own home. This deliberate redirection of resources away from housing has resulted in vastly increased repayments for recent home buyers and has forced prospective home buyers to defer indefinitely their ambition of home ownership.

Conference reasserts its support for the traditional Australian concept of home ownership and declares that the minimum requirements of immediate policy initiatives include:

- rejection of the Campbell Committee’s proposals to deregulate interest rates,
- pursuit of economic policies to reduce interest rates, while general interest rates remain high; to insulate the housing section from the crippling consequences,
- special assistance to bridge the deposit gap,
- special assistance to alleviate the consequences of rapid rent increases,
- boost funds for housing investment.
24 Veterans’ Affairs

A Labor Government will—

1 Extend liberal treatment to all ex-service personnel disabled as a result of war service and to their dependants.

2 Review recent changes to the repatriation system which reduce long-standing benefits, overhaul the appeals system to overcome long delays in hearings and determinations and restore the role of the Repatriation Review Tribunal to hear and make determinations on new evidence.

3 Reduce the waiting period for current applicants for Defence Service Home Loans, widen the eligibility provisions of such loans so as to ensure justice for ex-servicewomen and maintain the level of loans in line with increasing costs of home ownership.

4 Provide for at least half yearly indexation of all repatriation benefit payments.

5 Exclude war pensions, including the general and special rate, and family allowances, from consideration as income for the payment of Service pensions or corresponding Social Service pensions: to be implemented within three years with substantial relief being granted in the first year.

6 Grant to Allied ex-service personnel who fought with Allied forces during the Second World War entitlement to pension and treatment rights on the same basis as British ex-service personnel and extend fringe benefits (such as medical and hospital treatment and transport and telephone concessions) to both British and Allied ex-service personnel.

7 Extend to Allied ex-merchant mariners the same entitlements as those received by Australian ex-merchant mariners.

8 Recognise the special needs of Vietnam veterans and their families and extend counselling services for them.

9 Institute an independent judicial enquiry into the effects of herbicides and pesticides on Vietnam veterans.

10 Introduce legislation relating to overseas service so as to provide equality of repatriation entitlements for veterans of all wars, designated campaigns, or peacekeeping duties, at least equivalent to those now enjoyed by World War Two veterans.

11 Provide relief and treatment, where appropriate, for wives of TPI veterans.
The ALP recognises that Australian women do not yet experience total equality with men nor full participation in all aspects of our society. The special disadvantages of Aboriginal women, rural women, unemployed women, migrant women, disabled women isolated women are also recognised. In accordance with its belief in the equal rights of all people, the Australian Labor Party is committed to securing these rights for women in all matters, as set out in our Platform.

In office, Labor will take all legislative and administrative steps including the introduction of affirmative action programmes to ensure that these problems and disadvantages are overcome; such reforms will recognise the rights of women to participate fully in all aspects of political and economic life, the crucial contribution of women to family life and the special needs of women who are childbearers.

Labor will achieve these reforms in co-operation with state and territory governments where possible. Where state or territory government action is inadequate, and in all areas of Commonwealth responsibility, the Labor government will use Commonwealth funding and legislative powers including the ratification of international conventions to guarantee equal rights for women.
RULES

1 Name
The name of the Party shall be 'The Australian Labor Party.'

2 Objective
The objectives of the Party are set out in the Basic Principles as determined by the National Conference. To achieve these objectives the ALP will act in accordance with the Principles of Action and Progressive Reforms set out in the Party Platform from time to time.

3 Head Office
The Head Office of the Party shall be known as the National Secretariat and shall be established in John Curtin House, Barton. A.C.T.

4 Composition
The Party shall consist of branches in each state, the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory (hereinafter referred to as State Branches).

5 Structure of Party Organisation
a the Party shall function upon the following basis—
   i National Conference;
   ii National Executive;
   iii Federal Parliamentary Labor Party;
   iv National Labor Women's Organisation;
   v Australian Young Labor.

b The National Conference shall be the supreme governing authority of the Party and its decisions shall be binding upon every member and every section of the Party.

c The National Executive shall be the chief administrative authority of the Party, subject only to National Conference.

d The Federal Parliamentary Labor party shall have authority in properly constituted Caucus meetings to make decisions directed towards establishing the collective attitude of the Parliamentary Party to any question or matter in the Federal Parliament, subject to—
   i at all times taking such action which may be possible to implement the Party’s Platform and Conference decisions;
   ii on questions or matters which are not subject to National Platform or Conference or Executive decisions, the majority decision of Caucus being binding upon all members in the Parliament;
   iii no attitude being expressed which is contrary to the provisions of the Party Platform or any other decision of National Conference or National Executive, and;
the National Labor Women’s Organisation, the Australian Capital Territory Branch, and Australian Young Labor shall function in accordance with the rules that may be approved from time to time by the National Executive and subject to its control and jurisdiction.

6 National Conference
a National Conference shall consist of 100 delegates, or a number as near as practicable thereto, comprised as follows—
   i four delegates being the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Federal Parliamentary Labor Party and the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Party in the Senate;
   ii delegations from each State consisting of—
      (a) the State Parliamentary Leader or his/her nominee as approved by the State Executive;
      (b) a base component of six persons; and
      (c) a supplementary component determined in accordance with 6b.
   iii a delegation from the Northern Territory consisting of—
      (a) the Northern Territory Parliamentary Leader;
      (b) a base component of one person; and
      (c) a supplementary component determined in accordance with 6b.
   iv a delegation from the ACT consisting of
      (a) a base component of one person; and
      (b) a supplementary component determined in accordance with 6b; and
   v One delegate from Australian Young Labor.

b The supplementary component for each state and territory delegation shall be determined in accordance with the following formula—
   i a base figure of 50 delegates shall be set and shall constitute the numerator;
   ii the total number of House of Representatives seats, as at 31 December in the year preceding that in which the National Conference is required to be held, shall constitute the denominator;
   iii the denominator shall be divided into the numerator and the resulting dividend shall, in the case of each state and territory, be multiplied by the number of House of Representatives seats existing in that state or territory as at 31 December in the year preceding that in which the National Conference is required to be held;
   iv the resulting product shall in each case constitute the supplementary component to which the State or Territory in question is entitled, provided that a fraction of less than one half shall not be counted for this purpose and a fraction of one half or more shall count as the next higher whole number.
c No less than one quarter of the combined base and supplementary components of each State delegation shall consist of women ("the basic entitlement"), provided that where the calculation made to determine this basic entitlement results in a fraction of one half or more then the basic entitlement shall count as the next higher whole number, and where it results in a fraction of less than one half it shall count as the next lower whole number.

d Delegates shall be elected by a system of proportional representation.

e National Conferences shall be held in alternate years, the venue and time to be determined by the National Executive which shall have regard to the claims of all states.

f Special National Conferences may be held for specially stated purposes and shall be called in the manner prescribed by these Rules.

g i The National President need not be a delegate to National Conference but where the President is not a delegate he/she shall have the full rights of a delegate except that of voting;

ii The National Secretary and Assistant National Secretary shall not be delegates to National Conference but shall have the full rights of delegates except that of voting.

h The National Secretary, after receiving instructions from the convening authority, shall observe the following procedure for the purpose of establishing Conference agenda—

i give the following bodies three months notice to send items to Platform Committees: State Branches, National Labor Women's Organisation, Australian Young Labor, and Federal Electorate Councils and Trade Unions whose State Branches are affiliated with the Party in a majority of States in which they operate, all of which bodies shall have the right to submit items to Platform Committees. Bodies so submitting items to Platform Committees shall be notified in writing of the committee's views on such items.

ii send to State Branches and other bodies represented at National Conference, agenda and any other documents related there to at least one month before Conference meets.

7 National Executive

a The National Executive of the Party, which shall be the chief administrative authority, subject only to National Conference shall be constituted in the following manner—

i Two delegates from each state branch except in the case of the Northern Territory Branch and the Australian Capital Territory Branch which shall each have one delegate. Delegates shall be elected by a system of proportional representation;

ii the President, unless he/she is otherwise an elected delegate, with full rights of a delegate except that of voting.

iii The National Secretary and Assistant National Secretary shall
not be delegates but shall have the full rights of delegates except that of voting;
iv the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Federal Parliamentary Labor Party and the Leader and Deputy Leader in the Senate;
v State Secretaries who are not delegates to the National Executive shall be able to attend National Executive meetings with all rights of delegates except that of voting.

b i The National Executive shall elect the following officers: President; Senior Vice-President; two Junior Vice-Presidents; who shall be members of the National Executive in accordance with Rule 7a.
ii The President and Vice President shall be elected at the first meeting commencing after May 31st in each year, and shall hold office until the first meeting commencing after May 31st in the following year, but if any of them ceases to hold office before the latter meeting the National Executive shall elect a successor at the first meeting after he/she ceases to hold office.
iii The National Secretary and the Assistant National Secretary shall be the permanent officers of the National Executive, subject to good conduct, satisfactory performances of duty and adherence to the policy and objects of the Party. Their services shall be terminable by one month's notice by either party.

Powers and duties of the National Executive.
c decisions of the National Executive shall be binding upon all sections and members of the ALP subject only to appeal to National Conference. The National Executive shall—
i be the administrative authority carrying out the decisions of National Conference, and in the interpretation of any Conference decision, the National Platform and the Constitution and Rules of the Party, and the direction of Federal Members;
ii convene National Conferences in accordance with these Rules;
iii convene special National Conferences when requested by a majority of state Branches for special purpose(s) providing that such purpose(s) is/are National in character. The National Executive may also, on its own motion, convene such Conferences;
iv meet at least four times a year, and at such other times as the Executive may determine, for the purpose of considering and determining all matters that are properly before it. Subject to these rules only state Branches, Australian Young Labor, the Federal Parliamentary Labor Party, the National Labor Women's Organisation and trade unions whose state Branches are affiliated with the Party in a majority of states in which they operate shall be competent to send matters to the National
Executive. The Executive shall determine the time and place of all meetings;
v initiate discussions of any question of a national nature if a majority of the Executive so decides. Special Meetings of the National Executive may be called at the request of half of the credentialled delegates;
vi (a) the National Executive shall be competent to hear and decide appeals from any affiliated organisation or individual member against the decision of any State Conference or State Executive alleged to be inconsistent with any National decision or matter;
(b) where any member or affiliated organisation desires to appeal to the National Executive on a question which does not involve any National decision or matter, leave to appeal must first be obtained from the State Branch concerned;
(c) the National Executive shall hear and decide an appeal from any person seeking to be a candidate for Federal Elections against a decision of any State Conference or State Executive affecting his preselection or endorsement, providing that leave to appeal is granted by the National Executive. Such leave to appeal is not to be granted except by a decision in which 10 members vote affirmatively;
vii have plenary powers to deal with and decide any matters which, in the opinion of an absolute majority of members of the Executive, affect the general welfare of the Labor Movement, provided that no decision of National Conference shall be abrogated under this rule; and
viii in the case of any State Executive, State Branch or section of the ALP acting or having acted in a manner deemed by the National Executive to be contrary to the National Constitution, Platform and Policy of the Party as interpreted by the National Executive, the National Executive may over-rule such State Executive, State Branch or section and/or may declare that same no longer exists, and shall set up in place thereof organisation competent to carry out the National Constitution, Platform and Policy of the ALP. Pending the hearing of any appeal, the decision of the National Executive shall operate. In the event of the National Executive taking any action under this sub-clause, the National Executive shall be the body to approve any selection which otherwise would have been made by the body affected by the National Executive decision.

8 The Officers of the Party shall be responsible for the administration of the Party between meetings of the National Executive. They shall meet at least once between each two meetings of the National Executive for the purpose of preparing the agenda and making recommendations to expedite the business of the National Executive. Other than in urgent situations which preclude either a special
meeting of the National Executive or a postal vote of Executive members, the Officers shall not have power to make decisions on behalf of the National Executive. Any actions taken by the Officers between Executive meetings shall be reported to the next meeting of the Executive for endorsement.

9 Duties of President
The President, when available, shall attend and preside over all meetings of the National Executive and conduct such meetings on the basis of the Standing Orders as applicable to National Conference. The President may carry out any other duties that the Executive may deem fit.

10 Duties of Vice-President
The Vice-Presidents, in order of seniority, shall take the Chair in the absence of the President, and shall perform any other duties that may be referred to them by the Executive.

11 Finance
a To meet the general expenses of the Party, each State Branch shall pay each year, to the National Executive through the National Secretary, a sum representing a rate per thousand adult members, and a rate per thousand pensioner and student/junior members. The total due shall be paid in four quarterly instalments on 1 January, 1 April, 1 July and 1 October. The National Executive shall have the power to fix sustentation fees;
b in the event of a State Branch being six months in arrears in its contributions to the Party, the National Executive may decide that such Branch shall not be entitled to be represented at any meeting of the National Executive or National Conference, or be consulted on any question that may be subject to a ballot of State Branches, until such arrears are paid;
c the National Executive shall determine and administer an equalisation pool for travel costs associated with National Conferences and National Executive meetings;
d the National Executive shall meet the expenses of the National President attending National Conference and the expenses of any officers associated with any duty being carried out on behalf of the National Executive;
e each Branch shall pay to the National Executive not later than December 31st of each year the appropriate fee, to be determined by the National Executive, for international affiliations or activities associated therewith; and
f the National Executive shall, from time to time, determine the manner in which the Party’s accounts shall be operated including the signatories to the Party’s bank accounts.
12 Platform Review Committee
The Officers of the National Executive, together with the Leaders of the FPLP, shall act as a Platform Review Committee and further act as a consultative body for the purpose of removing misunderstandings provided that no action shall be taken to disturb the constitutional functions of each body.

13 Federal Parliamentary Labor Party
a no State Branch may direct members of the FPLP in regard to matters affecting the National Platform or policy or upon legislation before the Parliament or any matters the subject of consideration by the FPLP;
b the power of direction, advice and/or guidance is reserved for the National Conference and between conference, the National Executive; and
c no State Branch shall approach the FPLP except through the National Secretary who will report to the National Executive on any action taken.
RESOLUTIONS

1 Parliamentary Superannuation Scheme
Conference resolves that the Parliamentary Contributary Superannuation Act be amended to limit the extent of commutation of benefits and to restrict the payment of retirement benefits in respect of those beneficiaries who are in receipt of government salaries or payments.

2 Abortion
Conference resolves that the matter of abortion can be freely debated at any State or Federal Forum of the Australian Labor Party, but any decision reached is not binding on any member of the party.

3 Rules
Conference resolves that the question of enlarging and reconstituting the National Executive should be the subject of report and recommendations to National Conference when next convened.

4 Rules
Conference resolves to request the National Executive to examine the processing by National Conference of platform items requiring statutory majorities in order that the wishes of the enlarged Conference may be more faithfully reflected.
B National Executive Recommendations

National Conference accepted the National Executive recommendation that State Branches cannot bind delegates to this or any future conference now that they are elected by Proportional Representation. Furthermore Conference accepted that the following arrangements with regard to proxies apply—

1 Each State shall be entitled to a minimum of 2 proxies up to a maximum equal to 50% of the State’s delegation, provided that where the calculation results in a remainder of 1/2 the maximum entitlement shall count as the next higher whole number.

2 The credentials for State Branch proxies shall be circulated in advance and accepted at the commencement of the Conference and no other proxies may be admitted.

3 All proxies shall replace credentialed delegates for a specified period and at the conclusion of each report the delegation shall automatically revert to that originally credentialed.

4 State Leaders or their nominees may each nominate one proxy subject to (2) above. Such proxy must be a member of the relevant parliamentary executive.

5 Each State delegation may submit a list of ‘Special Speakers’ from their State for specific policy reports. Such lists must be submitted in advance of the relevant report and approved at the commencement of the report. ‘Special Speakers’ shall have the full rights of a delegate except that of voting for the duration of the report for which they have been admitted.

6 Federal Shadow Ministers shall automatically be ‘special Speakers’ for reports which come within their portfolio.

7 All changes of delegation must take place at the commencement of a report or the commencement of a session.

8 Nothing in the foregoing entities more speakers from any state to participate in the debate on any report than the number of delegates to which the state is entitled under rule 6(a).

C The Constitution and Rules
of the National Labor Women’s Organisation

1 Composition
State or Territory Labor Women’s Organisations or Branch bodies of women as approved by the respective State or Territory Executives of the Party (hereinafter referred to as State organisation).
2 Objectives
   a To promote the organisation and co-ordinate the work of women in the ALP;
   b to work for the elimination of discrimination against women;
   c to present the views of women members of the Party to the National Executive, National Conference and National Campaign Committee;
   d to present publicly the views of Labor women on National issues;
   e to educate women politically and industrially; and
   f to support and advocate the Constitution and Platform of the ALP as set out by the National and State Conferences on the ALP.

3 Executive Body
   a The Executive body shall comprise a President, two Vice-Presidents, a Secretary-Treasurer, who shall be known as the Officers;
   b the President and Secretary-Treasurer shall come from the same State and hold office for one two-year term;
   c these positions shall be rotated from State to State each term; and
   d the Executive shall be elected by the National Labor Women's Conference. Any member of a State organisation which supports the Conference who has not less than one year's membership shall be eligible to nominate.

4 Executive Meetings
   a The President shall convene special meetings when requested by a majority of the Executive to do so;
   b special meetings shall be held if three State Organisations so petition the President; and
   c a majority of the Executive shall constitute a quorum.

5 Powers of the Executive
   The executive shall be empowered to deal with—
   a matters referred to it by—
      i State Labor Women's organisations;
      ii the National Executive of the ALP;
      iii National Conference;
      iv National Campaign Committee;
      v Labor Women's National Conference;
   b any matter of an urgent nature, providing that the urgency of any such matter shall be determined by a majority of the Executive, either assembled in meeting or by telegraphic or postal vote;
   c the organisation of National Labor Women's Conferences in accordance with the requirements of these Rules;
   d arrangements for representation on other conferences which may be convened by other organisations having similar objects to the National Labor Women's Organisation subject to approval.
being granted by the ALP National Executive. The methods to
determine such representation shall be as follows—
Where time permits, nominations shall be invited from the State
organisations, to be received by a returning officer appointed by
the Executive. A ballot, if necessary, to be conducted by the
returning officer at the next National Labor Women’s Conference.
Where time does not permit, the Executive shall decide the
selection. Any member of a State organisation with not less than
one (1) year’s membership shall be eligible for selection; and
arrangements for representation on national and international
bodies on the principles and methods laid down in d hereof.

6 National Conference
a A National Conference of Labor Women shall be held every two
years;
b the time and place of the Conference shall be determined by the
Executive;
c State organisations shall be notified by the Secretary-Treasurer
of the time and place of such Conference not later than three
months prior to the opening of the Conference;
d the convening notice shall also call for the items to be placed
upon the Conference agenda, and shall be in the hands of the
Secretary-Treasurer not later than one month prior to the opening
of the Conference;
e conference items received after the time specified in (d) hereof
shall be placed in the category of ‘Late Items’ and Conference
shall determine whether such items will be considered;
f the National Labor Women’s Conference shall comprise of four
delegates from each State and two delegates from each territory
elected by the State organisation. A State may send a lesser
number but shall be empowered to exercise a full voting strength
of the State;
g the Executive shall be empowered to convene a National Confer-
ence when the Women’s organisation as defined in 1, if the
majority of States have indicated their support for the convening
of that Conference;
h special Conferences shall be called if a majority of State oranisa-
tions petition the President for this purpose;

7 any member of the National Executive of the ALP shall have the
right to be present at any Conference of the National Labor Wo-
men’s Organisation in the capacity of an observer;

8 the Secretary of the National Executive shall be advised of the
election of Officers of the National Labor Women’s Organisation;
and

9 ALP National Conference Standing Orders shall apply to all
meetings.
10 Finance
   a For the purpose of financing the National Labor Women's Organisation each State organisation shall contribute not less than twenty dollars ($20) per annum; and
   b the Officers authorised to operate the Banking Account of the National Labor Women's Organisation shall be the President, the Secretary and two trustees. Funds may be drawn over the signatures of the Secretary and one of the remaining three Officers appointed.
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