The Official Federal Platform of
THE LIBERAL PARTY of Australia

As Approved by Federal Council
November 15, 1960
PREAMBLE

Reaffirming the reliance on Divine Providence proclaimed by our forefathers in the Preamble to the Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act, 1900 —

"Whereas the people . . . humbly relying on the blessing of Almighty God, have agreed to unite in one indissoluble Federal Commonwealth under the Crown . . ."

the Liberal Party of Australia presents this Platform as a programme for a people whose highest ideals are inspired by a belief in God.
# INDEX

## OBJECTIVES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Platform</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>External Affairs</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communism</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Defence</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Constitutional</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic and Financial</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taxation</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary Industry</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mining</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trade, Tariffs and Development of Industries</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment and Industry</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Administration</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Services</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Repatriation After War Service</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Status of Women</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matrimonial</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immigration</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australian Aborigine</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transport</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Territories of the Commonwealth</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Objectives of the Liberal Party of Australia

AN AUSTRALIAN NATION:

1. Dedicated to political liberty and the freedom and dignity of man;
2. Safe from external aggression and living in the closest communion with fellow members of the Commonwealth, playing its part in a world security order which maintains the necessary force to defend the peace;
3. In which national defence is a matter of universal duty, and in which the spirit of patriotism is fostered and all Australians united in the common service of their country;
4. In which an intelligent, free and liberal Australian democracy shall be maintained by:
   (a) Parliament controlling the Executive and the Law controlling all;
   (b) Independence of the Judiciary;
   (c) Freedom of speech, religion and association;
   (d) Freedom of citizens to choose their own way of living and of life, subject to the rights of others;
   (e) Protecting the people against exploitation;
   (f) Looking primarily to the encouragement of individual initiative and enterprise as the dynamic force of progress;
   (g) Developing to the fullest extent a national spirit in Australia;
5. In which men and women who have been members of the fighting services and their dependents shall enjoy honour and security, and where preference and generous repatriation benefits are recognised;
6. In which primary, secondary and tertiary industries are promoted, new and adequate markets developed, the lot of the country man and his wife and children improved, rural amenities increased, and decentralisation of industries encouraged;
7. In which there shall be no nationalisation of any Australian industry without the approval of the people;
8. In which constant employment at good wages is available to all willing and able to work;
9. In which employer and employee have a sense of common interest and duty, and share as co-operators in all advances of prosperity, and in which living standards rise steadily as physical resources expand and ingenuity grows;
10. In which social provision is made for the aged, the invalid, the widowed, the sick, the unemployed and the children;

11. In which adequate medical services are within the reach of all;

12. In which a comprehensive system of child and adult education is designed to develop the spirit of true citizenship, and in which no consideration of wealth or privilege shall be a determining factor;

13. In which the youth of the nation is given every encouragement to develop its talents to the full, recognising that from its ranks will come the leaders of tomorrow;

14. In which family life is seen as fundamental to the well-being of society, and in which every family is enabled to live in and preferably to own a comfortable home at reasonable cost, and with adequate community amenities.
Platform of the Liberal Party of Australia

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

1. Participation in the United Nations and its associated activities and acceptance of responsibilities arising under the Charter.
2. Close collaboration with Great Britain and other Commonwealth countries as a first practical contribution to the success of the United Nations.
3. To further and protect Australia’s interests and security by:
   (a) Cultivation of friendly co-operation with the United States of America and other nations of the free world and particularly with our neighbours, the free nations of South and South-East Asia;
   (b) Participation in regional defensive agreements such as ANZUS and SEATO;
   (c) Participation in approved international aid programmes, such as the Colombo Plan and the International Development Association, designed to raise standards and promote economic development in underdeveloped countries.
4. Co-operation with the trading nations of the world and the sharing with them of joint responsibilities for the encouragement of world trade and the economic advancement and welfare of humanity.
5. Cultivation of good-neighbour relations with the Governments and peoples of the world in the cause of world peace.

COMMUNISM

6. Unremitting opposition to Communism as the enemy of human freedom and the most unscrupulous opponent of religion, civilised government, law and order, peace and national security.
7. Widening the public understanding of the aims and activities of Communism by:
   (a) Exposing Communist “Front Organisations” which aim to deceive the uninformed;
   (b) Stimulating public and trade union awareness of the Communist menace;
   (c) Fostering research, literature, and other means of public education to make known the facts of Communism;
   (d) Encouraging the use of secret ballots in trade union
elections to enable unionists to liberate their unions from Communist control.

**DEFENCE**

8. Maintenance of highly trained, well equipped, readily available regular naval, army and air forces at a level adequate to meet the requirements of home defence and obligations arising under Australia's membership of the United Nations, and membership of mutual defence organisations.

9. Retention of citizen and reserve forces at a level enabling expansion of the defence effort as required in an emergency.

10. Participation in regional arrangements for collective defence and in arrangements with the Commonwealth and other allies, as the most effective method of achieving national security and co-ordination of our defence policy and planning with that of our allies.

11. Adequate conditions of service for the defence forces, including pay, allowances, and retirement and re-settlement benefits.

12. Encouragement, establishment and retention in Australia of munitions and associated industries related to the service equipment requirements of the forces.

13. Maintenance of the forces at a high technical level through a vigorous programme of research and development in selected fields in Australia, and close association with related overseas activities.

14. A unified defence policy formulated on a joint Service basis.

15. The creation wherever possible of common services and standards and avoidance of overlapping between the Services.

16. An appropriate civil defence programme based upon close co-operation between the Commonwealth and States.

17. Complete and constant review of our resources and the means by which they may be directed to the defence of the country in an emergency.

18. A willingness to proceed with disarmament measures when adequate safeguards are provided.

**CONSTITUTIONAL**

19. To develop to the fullest extent a national spirit in Australia.

20. The maintenance unimpaired of the Federal system of Government with appropriate division of powers between the Commonwealth and the States as most conducive to the progress and well-being of Australia, the development of her territories and resources, and the democratic protection of the freedom of the individual.
21. Mutual co-operation between the Commonwealth and the States in the exercise of their respective powers.
22. Recognition that the bi-cameral system is the most effective method of democratic Parliamentary Government and that the continuance of the Senate and the House of Representatives is essential to the Federal system.
23. Creation of new States, where and when desirable, and their admittance to the Commonwealth of Australia.
24. Review of the working of the Commonwealth Constitution from time to time by representatives of Commonwealth and States to determine what, if any, adjustments consistent with its Federal quality have become necessary.

**ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL**

25. The fostering of an economic climate favourable to the best use of available resources and for the promotion of general prosperity and rising standards of living.
26. Preservation of a competitive, free-enterprise economy, as the most effective means of using our resources to advantage and as the dynamic force for progress.
27. Rejection of socialistic and totalitarian controls as retarding progress and impeding initiative.
28. Use of central banking, budgetary and fiscal policies to maintain a high level of employment and stability of the currency, to avoid inflationary and deflationary conditions, and to promote rapid development of the nation.
30. Encouragement of a high rate of savings and of investment of capital from local and overseas sources.
31. Provision of efficient basic services proper to government for the needs and development of the economy.
32. Promotion of the incentive to produce by claiming in taxation as little from income as is practicable, having regard to the essential needs of defence, social and public services and of the economy, and to equity as between taxpayers.
33. Development of research by the C.S.I.R.O. and other organisations to promote productivity and progress.
34. Protection and development of rural production as a vital part of the economy.
35. Further expansion of manufacturing through a tariff policy providing adequate protection for efficient secondary industries.
and use of the Tariff Board to enquire into and report on such industries.
36. Progressive and economic development of the inland, the north and other potentially valuable areas.
37. Development of mineral resources and the search for oil.
38. Expansion of exports, both primary and secondary, by active trade policies and trade promotion to maintain a balance-of-trade situation appropriate to Australia’s need.
39. Fostering of tourism in Australia as an important source of overseas exchange earnings by effective co-operation between Commonwealth and State Governments and appropriate organisations.
40. Protection of the community against any monopolies, combines and industrial organisations where, through absence of competition or by restrictive practices, they operate in a manner contrary to the public interest.
41. Encouragement, fostering and protection of small businesses.
42. Recognition of the freedom of the individual to work according to his chosen vocation, and his right to use his initiative and savings in the enterprise of his choice.
43. Recognition of the need to provide for population growth and national development by way of liberal financial support for the State Governments.

TAXATION
44. Tax reductions wherever practicable, consistent with the essential needs of defence, social and public services and of the economy and to preserve equity as between taxpayers.
45. A system of direct and indirect taxation based on principles which will secure:
   (a) Maximum benefits to the taxpayer with family responsibilities;
   (b) Assistance, by way of concessions, to taxpayers engaged in developing Australia’s basic natural resources;
   (c) The preservation and strengthening of Australia’s free-enterprise economy;
   (d) The encouragement of an increased rate of private capital investment from overseas and within Australia.

PRIMARY INDUSTRY
46. Stimulation of primary production and rural development with a consequent wider distribution of population and industry.
47. Provision of services and facilities essential to modern civilised life and the continued expansion of opportunities for profitable occupation; services, facilities and incentives to include:
   (a) Adequate and efficient transport by air, rail, road and water;
   (b) Education and cultural amenities and health services of high modern standards;
   (c) Adequate housing;
   (d) Services essential to production and housing such as water, sewerage, electricity and postal and telephone communications.


49. Provision, where practicable and desirable, for orderly marketing and intensive sales promotion schemes at home and abroad; no such scheme to come into effect without the approval of the producers in the industry concerned; national and international schemes for minimising short-term fluctuations in prices.

50. Re-negotiation and improvement where desirable of trade agreements with our customer countries and, where practicable, the negotiation of agreements with other customer countries, including those of Africa and Asia.

51. Encouragement of the extension of the range of the products of the land, including minerals, to satisfy home consumption and to open new markets.

52. Effective application of results of research by C.S.I.R.O., Commonwealth and State Government instrumentalities and other research bodies, to improve the quality and processes of production with particular regard to overseas competition and substitutes.

53. Co-operation between the Commonwealth and the States in:
   (a) Utilisation of the resources of science by the man on the land and provision of adequate advisory services for this purpose;
   (b) Encouragement of diversification of crops and conservation of water and fodder;
   (c) Assistance against the hazards of bush fires, and wind and water erosion; and
   (d) Preservation of forests and in planned development of afforestation;
   (e) Effective planning and co-ordination of research between the C.S.I.R.O., State Departments of Agriculture and other research organisations.

54. Encouragement of the growth and efficiency of primary production through tax benefits and concessions as an incentive for landholders in the finding, conserving and reticulating of water, land development, pasture and soil improvement and con-
ervation, and the provision of fire breaks.
55. Encouragement of the full economic development of mineral resources.
56. Further development of the Australian fishing industry.
57. Continuance of the intensive search for oil.
58. Continued effective geophysical and geographical survey of Australia.
59. Provision of adequate rural credit on terms appropriate to conditions of Australian land development.

MINING

60. Promotion of the principles of competitive free enterprise in the development of the mining industry.
61. Development of the mining industry to be advanced by:
   (a) International negotiations and agreements to contribute to the establishment of satisfactory world economic conditions for the mineral industries and, in particular, to protect and develop export opportunities for the Australian mineral industry;
   (b) Co-operation between the Commonwealth and States for the provision of the basic scientific survey services on a national and regional basis to indicate opportunities for mineral exploration and development;
   (c) The continuation and extension of taxation concessions in particular circumstances;
   (d) Special assistance for organisations and individuals engaged in the search for minerals of importance to the national economy.

TRADE, TARIFFS AND DEVELOPMENT OF INDUSTRIES

62. Maximum development of Australia's resources consistent with steady economic growth.
63. Full encouragement of efficient and economic secondary industries as a major means of providing employment at good living standards.
64. Use of tariff protection in the light of Tariff Board advice.
65. Prevention of injury to Australian industries through unfair trading methods.
66. Periodical review by the Tariff Board to ensure that the policy of tariff protection is serving its proper purpose.
67. Encouragement of capital investment, domestic and overseas, especially by the pursuit of stable economic policies and the
encouragement of overseas capital to combine with Australian capital in establishing and developing enterprises.

68. Raising of efficiency standards in industrial development by encouraging appropriate secondary industry research by private enterprise, C.S.I.R.O. and other research bodies, and by the acquisition of technical knowledge from overseas.

69. Provision of adequate public services necessary to sustain the operations of private enterprise.

70. Recognition that rapid industrial development calls for an increasing export income to finance the consequential growth in essential imports and invisible charges.

71. Stimulation of exports through sound internal and international economic policies, negotiation of trade treaties, and the encouragement of active sales promotion.

72. Continuance of British tariff preferences subject to adequate protection of local industry and fair reciprocity.

73. Consultation by government with industry, commerce and the trade union movement in the development of trade and industrial policies and in the administration of legislation.

EMPLOYMENT AND INDUSTRY

74. Full employment at good wages to all willing and able to work.

75. Encouragement of individual initiative and enterprise as the dynamic force of progress and support for the freedom of the citizen and the protection of the people against exploitation.

76. Encouragement, fostering and protection of small businesses and full recognition of their great value to the community.

77. Expansion of the skilled work-force by apprenticeship and other suitable means and encouragement for the introduction of the most modern and efficient capital equipment.

78. Continued incentives for new ideas, new products and new methods of management to further the progress of industry.

79. Provision, as far as possible, of equal opportunity for every citizen to choose his job and acquire the necessary skill to perform it.

80. Encouragement of suitable rewards and opportunity for advancement for those who acquire skill and accept responsibility.

81. Encouragement of good working conditions, amenities and safety provisions.

82. Encouragement of increased productivity as the prerequisite of rising standards of living and rewards.

83. Provision and maintenance of an effective system of concilia-
tion and arbitration covering primary, secondary and tertiary industries.
84. Acceptance of the principle that in return for good work employed persons merit the highest wages and best conditions the national economy can sustain, with due regard to the situation in any particular industry concerned.
85. Recognition of the principle of equal remuneration for men and women for work of equal value.
86. Encouragement of the view that industry does not involve a clash of interests between employer and employee and that both have responsibilities, not only for the prosperity of their industry, but also for taking proper account of the interests of the community at large.
87. Recognition of the right of the proprietor to a profit from the capital he has invested.
88. Protection against expulsion from industrial organisations for refusal to pay compulsory levies for political purposes.
89. Encouragement of profit-sharing, incentive payments, superannuation schemes, wherever practicable in industry.
90. Encouragement of industrial organisations of employers and of employees, membership not to be compulsory.
91. Democratic control of their own organisations by unionists, assisted where appropriate by secret ballots, and supervised where necessary by the Industrial Court.
92. Rejection of the idea that industrial arbitration and direct action can co-exist.

PROPERTY
93. The fostering of a nation-wide property-owning democracy, with the distribution of ownership over the widest number of individuals by:
   (a) Promoting conditions favourable to high real wages and savings from which property may be acquired;
   (b) Minimum taxation to encourage thrift;
   (c) Moderation in the imposition of inheritance taxes frustrating to the incentive of the family man;
   (d) Promotion of home ownership.

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION
94. Effective supervision of public expenditure to eliminate inefficiency, extravagance and waste.
95. Maintenance of an efficient, well-qualified and well-paid civil service, as an essential element in good public administration.
96. Suitable ultimate control of publicly-owned statutory corporations by the Parliament.
97. Prevention of bureaucratic control.

SOCIAL SERVICES

98. Comprehensive Social Services benefits.
99. The objectives to be:
(a) A proper standard of living, including food, clothing, housing, and medical attention for those in need;
(b) Incentives for thrift and savings to ensure that in addition to normal social services entitlement further income can be derived by those who have saved;
(c) To provide effective ways and means of financing the benefits and services.
100. These objectives to be achieved by:
(a) Provision of aged, invalid and widows’ pensions; unemployment and sick pay benefits; family endowment payments; medical attention for pensioners; and other benefits;
(b) Progressive liberalisation of the means test, both property and income;
(c) Provision through minimum personal income tax of more scope for saving and investment for retirement;
(d) Provision of incentives to invest in superannuation schemes and the encouragement of other methods of stimulating personal investment in insurance for retirement;
(e) Recognition that the needs of the individual will be satisfactorily met only by a community effort by Commonwealth and State Governments, local authorities and charitable organisations in their respective spheres, and acceptance of family responsibilities.

HEALTH

101. Development of the National Health Scheme, operating generally on a voluntary contributory basis through insurance by individuals with approved non-profit making medical and hospital benefit organisations.
102. Continuation and extension where desirable of the Pensioner Medical Scheme.
103. Assistance to all citizens for adequate access to a comprehensive range of medical services and therapeutic facilities.
104. Active promotion of public health measures in co-operation
with the States, including research and advice, and, where appro-
priate, a national attack on major diseases.
105. Support of medical research in co-operation with the States
and the dissemination of knowledge gained.
106. No nationalisation of the medical and dental professions.

HOUSING
107. Encouragement of home-ownership as fundamental to
family life, a sense of security and the well-being of the nation.
108. Activity and regular employment in the home-building
industry at the level needed to ensure sufficient homes.
109. Encouragement of home-building by private enterprise as
the quickest and most efficient means of building homes.
110. Ensuring adequate finance through all appropriate sources
for home ownership.
111. Encouragement of permanent building societies and other
kinds of co-operative building societies.
112. Provision of finance for home-building for ex-servicemen
and women qualified under the War Service Homes Act, who
wish to build or purchase homes.
113. Encouragement of measures to promote efficiency in home-
building by research into and development of modern techniques
in building and building materials.
114. Encouragement of measures for the replacement of sub-
standard dwellings by buildings of satisfactory standard.
115. Recognition of the need for adequate finance for semi-
government and local authorities responsible for basic services
such as water, sewerage, power, fuel, light and access.
116. Encouragement of and assistance for the construction of
homes for the aged.

REPATRIATION AFTER WAR SERVICE
117. Recognition that servicemen and women who are not
incapacitated shall not suffer economic disadvantage as a result
of their absence from civilian life.
118. Recognition that servicemen and women who are incapaciti-
ted shall enjoy generous pensions and receive efficient and
free medical attention with suitable supplementary pensions for
their dependents.
119. Appreciating the economic disadvantages arising from
absence from civilian life, provision of re-establishment for all
who have been members of the Services.
120. Effective preference in employment to ex-servicemen and
women on repatriation.
121. Assistance to ex-servicemen in the acquisition of their own homes through the War Service Homes Scheme.

**STATUS OF WOMEN**

122. Equal opportunity for women as for men to engage in all civic and political activities within the community.
123. Elimination of anomalies in employment which adversely affect women, and the freedom of women to engage in the occupation of their choice.
124. Acceptance of the principle of equal remuneration for men and women for work of equal value.
125. The appointment of qualified women to appropriate national and international bodies.

**MATRIMONIAL**

126. Uniformity of matrimonial laws within the Commonwealth.

**IMMIGRATION**

127. Recognition of the vital role of immigration in the further increase of the Australian population, so essential to the continuing economic expansion of the country, and the continuance of its position as a free independent nation.
128. Continuation of an active policy to obtain suitable immigrants to the extent of our absorptive capacity.
129. Preservation of our national heritage by special encouragement and assistance to persons of British stock desiring to settle in Australia.
130. Fostering of understanding, friendship and neighbourliness towards immigrants.
131. Full encouragement to immigrants to accept Australian citizenship.
132. Affirmation of the internationally recognised principle that every nation has the right to decide its own immigration policy according to its own circumstances.

**AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINE**

133. Provision of every opportunity for the Australian aboriginal population to progress and develop, by creating social, educational and economic facilities designed for their care, protection and advancement.
134. Sponsorship of policies and measures designed to assimilate aborigines into the Australian life, leading to full citizenship, social equality and integration into the Australian community.
EDUCATION

135. Recognition that under the Constitution the primary responsibility for education rests with the States, each of which is best able to judge the educational programme and organisation most suitable to its requirements.

136. Financial assistance for the balanced development of State universities, and the maintenance and development of the Australian National University.

137. Assistance to selected university students by means of scholarships.

138. Participation in educational schemes which enable students from other countries to come to Australia for study, and provide Australians with opportunities to visit other countries for educational purposes.

TRANSPORT

139. Provision of the most effective and economic transport by sea, road, rail and air for the requirements of the public, primary and secondary industry and commerce, and the developmental needs of the nation.

140. Every encouragement to be given to privately-operated transport; Government-operated transport services to be conducted on a sound commercial basis but without discrimination against parallel services conducted by private enterprise.

Road Transport

141. Constant improvement in the road system of the nation by:

   (a) Providing maximum financial support, within the limits and means of the economy, to the States for roads;

   (b) Providing roads of suitable standard within Commonwealth Territories;

   (c) An integrated road plan for the development of northern Australia.

Railway Transport

142. Provision of the most efficient and economic services by railways owned by the Commonwealth.

143. Assistance to the States in carrying out standardisation of rail gauges where justified.

Coastal Shipping

144. Recognising that coastal shipping makes a contribution to transport, particularly with reference to heavy and long haulage, the taking of measures to assist coastal shipping to maintain and develop services of standards comparable to other forms of transport.
145. Encouragement of the rate of investment in the industry, for ships, port facilities and stevedoring equipment to ensure economic and efficient services.

146. Promotion of satisfactory industrial relations on the waterfront and in shipping.

**Shipbuilding**

147. Support for the Australian Shipbuilding Industry by adequate subsidy following review and recommendation by the Tariff Board.

**Civil Aviation**

**International Services**

148. Recognising the important achievements of Australian aviation in the field of international services, encouragement of its operations to maintain high-ranking place among the foremost air operators of the world.

149. Adequate provision of international airports.

**Internal Services**

150. Ensuring of:

(a) Conditions for the efficient and economic conduct of adequate internal air services on a competitive basis;

(b) High standards of aerodromes, maintenance and air traffic control;

(c) A good standard of aerodromes, air navigation facilities, air crews, maintenance staffs, and all the facilities needed by aircraft which might operate in or from Australia.

**TERRITORIES OF THE COMMONWEALTH**

151. Preservation of Australia’s right to defend and develop her own Territories and those over which she exercises trusteeship.

152. Active development of the resources of all the Territories by the encouragement of industries and by the development of ports, roads, aerodromes and like facilities.

153. Co-ordinated development of the Australian Territory of Papua and the United Nations Trusteeship Territory of New Guinea for the benefit of the population inhabiting those areas.

154. Progressive promotion of social, economic and political institutions in the Territories directed towards eventual self-government.

155. Continued balanced development of Canberra as the National Capital.