

5 May 2019

Mr Scott Tanner  
Chair  
Committee for Melbourne  
[mletts@melbourne.org.au](mailto:mletts@melbourne.org.au)

Dear Mr Tanner

Thank you for your letter dated 9 April 2019 to the Prime Minister, the Hon Scott Morrison MP. I am responding on his behalf. Thank you for providing your policy priorities for the consideration of the Coalition.

This election will have real consequences for Australia's economy and our future.

Despite global headwinds, our economy is strong. This year, for the first time in more than a decade, the Government will deliver a Budget surplus.

A stronger economy means we can deliver on our plans to:

1. Create 1.25 million more jobs over the next five years.
2. Maintain budget surpluses and pay down debt.
3. Deliver tax relief to encourage and reward hard working Australians.
4. Guarantee increased investments for schools, hospitals and roads.
5. Keep Australians safe and our borders secure.

The alternative at this election is Mr Shorten. Labor's risky agenda includes billions of dollars of higher taxes – on retirees, housing, incomes, investments, family businesses, electricity and more.

Thank you for communicating our response to your members.

Yours sincerely,



Andrew Hirst  
**Federal Director**

## **MORRISON GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO THE COMMITTEE OF MELBOURNE**

### **Airport link**

Thank you for the commendation on the Morrison Government's commitment to the Melbourne Airport Rail Link. The people of Melbourne and Victoria had been waiting far too long for the rail link to become a reality. The Morrison Government is delivering it.

We have made a \$5 billion investment in the Melbourne Airport Rail Link - the biggest infrastructure commitment in the 2018-19 Budget. The Melbourne Airport Rail Link is part of our plan to bust congestion across Melbourne, and get people home faster and safer.

The Coalition has made over \$27 billion in commitments to Victorian transport infrastructure since 2013. Investments like these can only be made because our plan for a stronger economy is working.

This is all part of our record \$100 billion infrastructure investment program to help bust congestion and is only possible as a result of a strong economy.

The Morrison Government will continue to work closely with the state and local governments to progress the delivery of vitally needed infrastructure across Melbourne.

### **Skills**

Apprenticeships provide a pipeline for skills, particularly trade skills that are essential to keeping our economy strong.

From 1 July 2019, the Morrison Government will introduce a new apprenticeship incentive to create up to 80,000 additional apprentices in Australia's top 10 areas of skills shortage.

- Eligible apprentices will receive \$1,000 after 12 months of their apprenticeship and \$1,000 more upon completion.
- Eligible employers will receive \$2,000 after 12 months of the apprenticeship, and \$2,000 more upon completion.

Support for employers and apprentices in occupations of skill shortage will boost the supply of skilled workers and help businesses grow.

The Morrison Government will establish a new streamlined system of incentives underpinned by a priority occupations list that employers can navigate easily, ensuring that current skills needs are targeted.

To boost the economy, our apprenticeships system must be able to quickly adapt to emerging skills areas such as information technology and cyber security. The skills needs list will be updated regularly in response to changing labour market demand.

## **Housing**

As part of the 2017-18 Budget, the Coalition announced a comprehensive housing affordability plan designed to improve housing outcomes for all Australians.

This includes:

- the National Housing and Homelessness Agreement, which commenced on 1 July 2018 and will improve accountability and transparency for housing and homelessness outcomes - providing more than \$7.5 billion over five years, which includes an additional \$620 million in specific funding for homelessness services, which must be matched by the state governments;
- the First Home Super Saver Scheme to help Australians buy their first home (estimated cost of \$250 million for 2017-21);
- the \$1 billion National Housing Infrastructure Facility and the National Housing Finance and Investment Corporation which will help to unlock new housing supply including social housing;
- strengthening regulation of the community housing sector to support its capacity to grow;
- \$6 million to support the Homes for Homes initiative, which aims to raise funds for social and affordable housing;
- \$10 million over 10 years to develop social impact investments that help young people at risk of homelessness;
- releasing surplus Commonwealth land for housing and the Australian Government property register; and
- a variety of tax, superannuation and foreign investment changes aimed to help Australians meet their housing needs.

The Morrison Government continues to support those in need in the community by providing around \$4.5 billion each year in Commonwealth Rent Assistance to more than 1.3 million individuals and families.

## **Internet and digital capability**

The Morrison Government is connecting Australia. The NBN is now available to three quarters of all Australian premises, or more than 8.7 million homes and businesses. It now has over 5 million active connections (as at April 2019).

Our NBN is connecting more users every two weeks than Labor connected in six years of Government. Over 60,000 premises per fortnight are being connected, compared to 51,000 premises after six years of Labor.

All Australians will be able to connect by 2020.

Labor's NBN would have cost an extra \$30 billion and pushed a typical home internet bill up by an extra \$43 a month, or more than \$500 a year.

The Morrison Government's NBN rollout takes pressure off household and business internet bills. Our changes have saved taxpayers around \$30 billion, avoided a \$43 increase in monthly internet bills, and will connect all Australians at least six years sooner.

Our approach has allowed NBN to offer a better wholesale pricing strategy to reduce congestion and increase uptake of 50Mbps or higher plans, tripling from 16 per cent in December 2017 to over 57 per cent today.

While Labor promised a significantly more expensive NBN with 1,000Mbps speeds, only 9 per cent of users buy 100Mbps plans and less than 0.01% buy the top 1,000Mbps speed.

### **Metropolitan collaboration and Eastern seaboard collaboration**

The Morrison Government has committed to delivering City Deals for all of Australia's capital cities. In Victoria, we have already worked with the State and Local Governments to deliver the Geelong City Deal which was put forward as a priority.

Our commitment to the Geelong City Deal stands at \$184 million and includes investments in the CBD and throughout surrounding coastal areas, including the Great Ocean Road region.

We look forward to working with all State Governments and respective Local Governments on future City Deals, including in Melbourne.