



The Hon Craig Laundry MP

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MEDIA RELEASE

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SHORTEN CONFIRMS MCMANUS AS SHADOW IR MINISTER

The Labor Party has confirmed that it has no forward looking agenda when it comes to workplace relations, jobs or the economy – they are simply waiting by the phone for direction from trades hall, picking up out-dated, reckless policies at the direction of the union movement.

Their agenda will cost hard working Australians their jobs, they are anti-small business and they will turn our country's economy and workplace relations framework back decades.

At a time when union membership is at record lows – with less than 9 per cent of the private sector members of a union, Labor and Bill Shorten have now publically committed to supporting their union mates at the expense of non-union members and small business owners.

Labor and Bill Shorten at the direction of the Transport Workers Union (TWU) have announced that they are committed to supporting the re-establishment of the Road Safety Remuneration Tribunal. A Tribunal, which pushed tens of thousands of owner-drivers – many of whom are small and family businesses - to the brink of collapse by rendering them uncompetitive with big trucking companies.

- The Australian Small Business and Family Enterprise Ombudsman undertook a review into the devastating impact that deal between the TWU and Labor had on small business. The facts are clear, this policy will destroy jobs and businesses:
<http://www.asbfeo.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/RSRT%20Payments%20Order%20Inquiry%20Report%20-%20FINAL.pdf>.

Labor and Bill Shorten at the direction of John Setka and the CFMMEU have committed to abolishing the Australian Building and Construction Commission – the very same agency which has been seeking to stamp out the rampant bullying, thuggery and coercive tactics used by the CFMMEU against the 350,000 small-business and 1.1 million workers on Australia's building and construction sites.

- The CFMMEU has had more than 14.4 million in fines imposed on it for breaches of industrial law in recent years. They currently have 64 union officials before the courts. Judges have described the union as the “*most recidivist corporate offender*”, with “*a deplorable record*” of seeing law breaking as simply “*the cost of doing business*”. Instead of calling out this behaviour for what it is, under a Shorten-Labor Government, these law breakers will become the law makers.

Labor and Bill Shorten, under the thumb of Sally McManus and the ACTU have failed to rule out supporting industry wide bargaining, a reckless policy which threatens to dramatically increase

the level of industrial disputation to the unprecedented levels seen in the 1970's before enterprise bargaining.

- Industrial action in the 1970s was 40 times higher than it is today. In 1973 there were 2,538 disputes and 552 working days lost per thousand employees compared with just 159 disputes and 13.5 working days lost per thousand employees under the current system in 2017.

Labor and Bill Shorten at the direction of the unions will abolish the Registered Organisations Commission (ROC) - the very agency responsible for ensuring unions and employer associations keep adequate records and comply with their obligations towards members.

- Just this year the ROC revealed that the TWU had been artificially inflating its union membership numbers by almost 21,000. At the same time it was revealed by former NSW TWU State Secretary, Richard Olsen that the union had been spending its member's money on long lunches, overseas trips, black vinyl lounges and political donations all without proper authorisation.

Labor will slavishly adopt the union movement's destructive policies because Bill Shorten and Labor are beholden to their militant union mates for power and money. In 2016-17 alone the ALP accepted over \$6 million in donations from the unions and had around another \$4 million spent by them in support of their campaigns.

While it's clear who is running the Shorten show, while the union movement is developing Labor Party policy which will cost jobs and small-businesses, the Turnbull Government is getting on with the business of sensible workplace relations reform, job creation and improving our economy for all Australians.

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