

# The little book of big Labor waste

50 examples of Labor waste  
and mismanagement from  
the Gillard Government





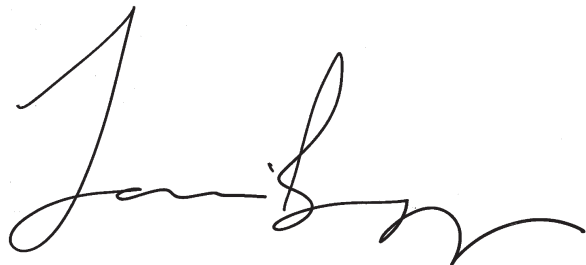
# Foreword

The Rudd-Gillard Government has been the most financially reckless Government in Australian history.

In 2007, Labor inherited a government with net worth totalling \$70 billion. All that has now been squandered - all gone.

Thanks to Labor, Australia now has a government with \$147.3 billion of net debt - the biggest debt in Australian history! We are now paying almost \$20 million a day in interest to service that debt.

Almost daily, we hear Julia Gillard and Wayne Swan talk about budget surpluses and spending cuts. But we know that Labor's rhetoric is not matched by the reality of its actions.



**Jamie Briggs**

Spokesperson on Scrutiny of Government

Labor has no plans to repay their debt. Under Labor, there are only prospects for more deficits, more debt and more waste and mismanagement.

In fact, under the leadership of Julia Gillard, the list of waste and mismanagement is increasing at an alarming rate. From the multiple billion dollar blow outs in the immigration portfolio to gold plated coffee machines for bureaucrats, the litany of waste is staggering.

What Labor does best is rack-up debt through waste and mismanagement - it's in their DNA. The only way to stop Labor's waste and pay back the debt is to change the Government.



**The little book of big Labor waste gives just 50 examples of the billions of dollars Labor has wasted and mismanaged.**



# Immigration budget blow out

# 01

Scott Morrison,  
Media Release,  
22 October 2012

Labor's failed border protection policies and Julia Gillard's stubborn refusal to re-introduce the full suite of proven Howard Government policies that stopped the boats has resulted in an immigration budget blow out of \$6.6 billion in the last four years. This does not include the full costs of reopening detention centres in Nauru and Manus Island and increasing the refugee intake to 20,000 people per year.

The Age,  
23 October 2012

## IMMIGRATION

# Boat plan's \$1.2b blowout

By **DYLAN WELCH**

THE immigration budget has been blown out by more than \$1 billion as a result of Labor's reinvigoration of the

tracts to build these facilities are currently subject to commercial negotiations," the MYEFO papers states.

Immigration Minister Chris Bowen

# NBN blow out

# 02

Malcolm Turnbull,  
Media Release,  
9 August 2012

NBN Co's revised corporate plan reveals that Labor's broadband policy is way behind schedule and way over budget. There has been a \$4.6 billion blowout in the operating and capital expenses, and indirect operating expenses – primarily staff costs – have more than doubled, from \$3.7 billion to \$7.8 billion. All in all, the total cost of the NBN has increased \$3.2 billion, from \$40.9bn to \$44.1bn.

The Australian,  
10 August 2012

## NBN costs soar as Labor rolls out extravagance

*Future governments will be stuck with an inefficient model*

THE revelation in the National Broadband Network's latest corporate plan that taxpayers will inject an extra we have pointed out for three years, those discussing the opportunity costs of spending \$37.4bn or how much users

# Carbon Tax advertising

# 03

Greg Hunt,  
Media Release,  
14 May 2012

Greg Hunt,  
Media Release,  
17 October 2012

Labor is spending \$69.5 million advertising the carbon tax, a tax Julia Gillard emphatically ruled out introducing before the last election.

During Senate Estimates, it was also revealed that Labor had spent about \$100,000 building three fake kitchens as part of its TV ad campaign, despite a real kitchen costing about \$15,000.

Daily Telegraph,  
17 October 2012

## Political heat in the fake family kitchen

**EXCLUSIVE**

SIMON BENSON  
NATIONAL POLITICAL EDITOR

THE federal government's advertising agency spent \$100,000 to build three fully furnished fake kitchens complete with new stoves, fridges and appliances to act as backdrops for its carbon tax ads.

And they have been sitting in storage gathering dust in a Sydney studio warehouse ever since.

The Daily Telegraph has learned that for the first series of household compensation ads for the government's carbon tax, the ad agency had hired a residential kitchen at a

But the agency changed its mind for the second set of ads and decided to build three kitchens in a studio instead.

Sources involved in the project told The Daily Telegraph they had seen the sets and new appliances dismantled and dumped at a landfill site in Sydney five weeks ago.

However, the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs yesterday insisted the sets were still in storage, after seeking reassurance from their ad agency, Clemenger BBDO, that they had not been taken to the tip.

The department could not explain why it needed to build fake kitchens after hiring a real one for the first ads but said

the total costs of the ads had come in under budget for the 2012 financial year allocation.

The opposition claimed it was a "sick irony" that the government would buy brand-new appliances used for ads promoting an environmental policy, and then shelve them. A department spokeswoman forwarded an email from Clemenger, after making inquiries itself, confirming that the three sets were "currently and safely in storage in Sydney".

But it was unclear what use the government would have for them again.

"The sets have been stored for future use. They have not been thrown out," the department spokeswoman told The Daily Telegraph.

*"The Household Assistance*

Package campaign went through stringent approval processes as required for all government campaign advertising. The total production cost of the first round of ads was similar to total production costs for the latest round.

"The campaign costs came under the allocated budget for the 2012 financial year.

"It is incorrect to say there has been a cost blowout."

But opposition environment spokesman Greg Hunt said: "The creation of three fake kitchens says everything about this government. It is all spin and nothing of environmental substance underneath."

EDITORIAL PAGE 24



# Live export fiasco

# 04

John Cobb,  
Media Release,  
12 August 2011

Labor's panicked reaction to an ABC Four Corners story threw the cattle industry into chaos, resulting in a \$100 million assistance package. If Labor had stuck by its original decision to restrict live trade, instead of reacting to a Get-up! Campaign, the need for an assistance package could have been avoided.

# Export ban puts stations in limbo

The Australian,  
9 June 2011





# Carbon Capture and Storage Institute

# 06

Julia Gillard is sitting on her hands while the \$300 million Global Carbon Capture and Storage Institute, set up in 2009, is wasting millions of dollars.

The current CEO said the \$100 million a year in funding was too much for the body to manage efficiently. "It is actually impossible to spend that amount of money responsibly", he said.

Sunday Age,  
17 June 2012

## Carbon millions squandered

LENORE TAYLOR

THE Australian-funded \$300 million Global Carbon Capture and Storage Institute set up by former prime minister Kevin Rudd has squandered taxpayers' money for negligible results, ex-staff say.

And according to a survey of the institute's 190 members, which include businesses, governments and institutions from around the world, many were "fed up with the lack of focus . . . and fast losing patience" with its work.

Undertaken in 2010, the survey

Among those expenses were numerous first-class air fares for board members and lavish overseas trips for more than 15 of the institute's

Australia-based staff to attend meetings in France and Japan, where they stayed in five-star hotels and were catered for by top chefs.

But for all its high-powered meetings, former staff and industry observers say the Canberra-based institute has never had a clear focus, and this has led to millions of dollars being invested in overseas projects that have

the Asian Development Bank, almost \$20 million to the Paris-based International Energy Agency, and \$10 million to the Clinton Foundation headed by former US president Bill Clinton, and given a grant to another body called the Climate Group, to "advance" carbon capture and storage.

*The Sunday Age* believes there is deep concern about what Australia is actually achieving from these contracts.

Mr Page said the institute aimed to make sure each new project around the world did not repeat the mistakes

# Market research blow-out

# 07

Taxpayers have forked out more than \$30 million in market research since Julia Gillard became Prime Minister in June 2010. This is double what Kevin Rudd spent in his two and a half years as Prime Minister.

## Vote-testing a \$30m pollsters' bonanza

**STEVE LEWIS** NATIONAL  
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TAXPAYERS have forked out more than \$30 million in two years to help the Gillard Government test the public mood on its most controversial reforms, including the carbon tax, pokies reform and the NBN.

A handful of market research firms are earning huge fees and Julia Gillard

appears to be outspending Kevin Rudd, according to the Commonwealth's official AusTender site.

Nearly 200 market research contracts have been listed since June 2010. Voter attitudes have been polled on issues from digital TV to tobacco plain packaging and mandatory pre-commitment on poker machines.

**Continued Page 4**

**The Herald Sun/  
Daily Telegraph/  
Advertiser,  
12 July 2012**

# Spin doctors blow-out

# 08

Taxpayers are spending about \$150 million a year on an army of spin doctors to sell Labor policies. There is now about 1600 staff employed by federal departments and agencies in media, communications, marketing and public affairs roles. Yet again, Labor's focus on spin over substance is coming at a huge cost to the taxpayer.

## Gillard's army of spin costs \$150m

**TAXPAYERS** are spending about \$150 million a year on an army of spin doctors to sell the Gillard government's policies.

Figures obtained by *The Australian* reveal there are about 1600 staff employed by federal departments and agencies in media, communications, marketing and public affairs roles.

The Australian Taxation Office, Defence and departments of Human Services, Immigration and Health employ more media and communications staff than any other departments or agencies. A further 60 media advisers are dedicated to federal government ministers and parliamentary secretaries.

*A snakeswoman for Julia*

already slashed \$13bn in spending from the public sector and its efficiency dividend imposed a strong discipline on the spending of federal departments and agencies.

The opposition's senate leader, Eric Abetz, seized on the figures to accuse Labor of focusing on spin over substance and vowed to cut the numbers if in government.

FULL REPORT P2



# Staff payouts

# 09

\$1.3 million was spent on payouts to terminated staff immediately following Kevin Rudd's political assassination, and a further \$5.5 million following the subsequent election. Australians didn't just wake to a new Prime Minister on 24 June 2010; they also awoke to a massive pay out bill.

**\$7m to  
pay off  
Labor's  
legacy**

Daily Telegraph,  
12 November 2010

# Carbon Cop office makeover

# 10

Simon Birmingham,  
Media Release,  
4 June 2012

Labor's Clean Energy Regulator, better known as the 'Carbon Cop', has spent \$4.4 million sprucing up its new offices. This comes after it was revealed the Department of Climate Change office rent jumped \$1.3 million a year to \$25.2 million under a newly signed five-year lease.

This combines the two worst aspects of the Gillard Labor Government, the carbon tax deceit and the massive government waste.

Daily Telegraph,  
3 July 2012

## Carbon cop HQ to spend \$4m in green being clean

SIMON BENSON  
NATIONAL POLITICAL EDITOR

AS households grapple with the true cost of the carbon tax, the government's environment cop is splashing out \$4.4 million to spruce up its offices.

The Clean Energy Regulator — set up to enforce the

net when families were being told prices would go up.

“How can the Gillard government justify whacking Australians with the world's biggest carbon tax and at the same time waste over \$4 million

bills from July 1 to December 31, will explain how much of any price rise was down to the carbon tax.

“The government is determined to ensure households get the facts about electricity

poles and wires that get the power to peoples homes, will make up \$51 out of every \$100 on peoples bills.

“The impact of the carbon price is small compared with the cost of unreading poles

# Kevin Rudd's Travel Bill

# 11

Kevin Rudd spent \$1.2 million on overseas travel in his first 12 months as Foreign Minister, after being dumped as Prime Minister. It was obvious Julia Gillard preferred Kevin Rudd out of the country, but it came at a huge cost to taxpayers.

**RUDD'S  
\$1M  
POWER  
TRIP**

A cartoon illustration of Kevin Rudd, a man with glasses and a white hair, wearing a dark suit and tie. He is walking and carrying two yellow suitcases, one in each hand. The illustration is positioned at the bottom right of the large text block.

Daily Telegraph,  
14 September 2011

# Donations to unions

# 12

Labor donated \$10 million of taxpayers' money to trade unions to train upcoming union leaders in its 2011-12 budget. This followed Kevin Rudd's \$10 million union donation in the 2010-11 budget. Unions have now been fully compensated for their \$20 million donation to Labor at the 2007 election.

**LABOR  
HANDS  
UNIONS  
\$20M**



# NBN advertising

# 13

Luke Hartsuyker,  
Media Release,  
11 May 2012

Labor will spend \$20 million on a propaganda campaign about the National Broadband Network in a desperate attempt to paint over the waste and mismanagement of the \$44 billion off-budget project.

The Australian,  
21 May 2012

## Labor's \$20m on NBN ad campaign queried

LANAI VASEK

THE federal Coalition says it will pursue the government and NBN Co in this week's Senate esti-  
across more political messages than NBN Co is willing to allow."  
The budget papers say the gov-

# Set top box program

# 14

Labor is wasting \$67 million on administration costs to run a program to install set top boxes in people's homes for an average of \$350 each, even though Harvey Norman offers customers the same deal for \$168.

# \$67m lost on set-top farce

Daily Telegraph,  
18 July 2011

# Donations to green groups

# 15

Labor has repaid the groups who have been the loudest supporters of the carbon tax by donating \$3 million in grants to those who formed the backbone of the “Say Yes” climate change campaign, such as the Climate Institute, the Australian Conservation Foundation and Climate Works Australia.

**The Australian,  
18 October 2011**

## Green groups get \$3m from ALP's largesse

LABOR has handed \$3 million in grants to supporters of climate change action to promote efforts to cut global warming and support the government's clean energy package as it seeks to head off

\$250,000 to produce an independent assessment of the impacts of the carbon price on the cost of living. It is working with ACOSS and *Choice* on the study;

- Climate Works is negotiating

# Tax forum talk-fest

# 16

\$1 million was wasted on holding a tax forum demanded by Independent Rob Oakeshott, another talk fest that delivered no results.

Daily Telegraph,  
28 December 2011

# **\$1 million to talk tax**

## **But not on carbon, mining, GST**

# Travelling E-Health bureaucrats

# 17

Despite being unable to deliver a system that Doctors can actually use, the National E-Health Transition Authority still managed to spend \$4.3m on travel in 2011-12 and more than \$1m on events, conferences and dinners in five-star hotels.

## E-health bureaucrats spend \$5m on travel

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**SUE DUNLEVY**

THEY'VE produced an e-health record that so far can't be used by doctors, but the bureaucrats in charge last year spent more than \$5 million on travel and on stakeholders in five-star hotels.

The National e-Health Transition Authority, with 257 employees, told a Senate estimates committee it spent \$4.3m on travel in 2011-12 and more than

April was attended by about 100 people who were offered steak and seafood, creme brulee or a chocolate dessert, and wine.

NEHTA paid for some guests to fly to Sydney for the two-day event and covered their accommodation.

A former policeman was the motivational speaker at the dinner and entertained guests with grisly details about murders while they were eating dessert.

NEHTA has held more than

# Wine coolers for Carbon Cop

# 18

To go with its new office, the Department of Climate Change is expected to purchase a suite of new shiny appliances for Julia Gillard's 'carbon cop', including 23 bar fridges, 14 dishwashers, 26 microwaves, two ovens, two cooktops, two wall mounted rangehoods and a 40-bottle wine cabinet.

Daily Telegraph,  
13 September 2012

## Top-end fit-out for carbon cops

ANNA CALDWELL

THE Gillard government's carbon tax cops are preparing to fit out their plush new offices with a suite of shiny energy-efficient appliances that most households could only dream of — right down to a 40-bottle wine cabinet.

As Australian families facing

They're looking for 23 fridges, 14 dishwashers, 26 microwaves, two ovens, two cooktops, two wall-mounted rangehoods and a 40-bottle wine cabinet with a glass and stainless-steel front.

But the government insists the energy efficiency of the building will save taxpayers money in the long run.

The climate bureaucrats are

said the wine cabinet could be reconsidered once quotes were provided, and if it was not considered to be value for money it could be replaced with a regular fridge.

The spokesman said the bar fridges would be located in meeting rooms for catering purposes, with the wine fridge in the main meeting room for "official functions for visiting

man Greg Hunt said: "This is a government hiking up the price of electricity for mums and dads with a massive carbon tax but they don't impose the same cost pressures on themselves.

"There's beer and wine for the government but the prime minister has suggested to the public that they could turn their own bar fridges off to

# The Lodge carbon tax bill

# 19

Jamie Briggs,  
Media Release  
4 October 2012

# Carbon tax bill gouges Gillard

Julia Gillard's carbon tax has had an immediate impact on her own electricity bills at The Lodge, with the July 2012 bill increasing 25% from the previous July 2011 bill. As the bill clearly states, there is \$660 worth of carbon tax payments (including GST), some 12% of the total bill.

But unlike ordinary Australian families, she won't need to worry about how to pay for it – that will be picked up by the taxpayer.

Daily Telegraph,  
4 October 2012

# Cost of HSU investigation

# 20

Additional Senate Estimates,  
15 – 19 October 2012

Fair Work Australia has so far spent more than \$1.8 million on outside legal and accounting advice for its investigation into the roting of HSU funds, including \$1.3 million on external legal advice, \$100,000 on external accounting advice, \$430,000 on KPMG's review of the investigation.

The \$1.8 million does not include the cost to taxpayers of launching FWA's court action against Labor MP, Craig Thomson. The court action followed FWA's findings that Mr Thomson had used HSU funds to pay for escort services and other improper purposes.

AFR  
18 October 2012

## Tribunal's Thomson bill \$2m

**Fleur Anderson**

Fair Work Australia has spent close to \$2 million on external legal and accounting advice related to the Health Services Union investigation, with the bill set to climb now that former Labor MP Craig Thomson has vowed to fight 37 civil charges in the Labor MP might take defamation action against those who repeated the tribunal's allegations. "Mr Thomson is innocent, particularly, it has to be stated for the record, he is particularly innocent of having paid people to have sex with him,

"It did seem somewhat strange that Ms Gillard said Mr Thomson had 'crossed the line' at a time when nobody knew what that line was until shortly thereafter the [Ian] Temby [HSU] report came down and the Fair Work Australia investigation."



# Market research/spin teams for the carbon tax

# 21

Labor spent \$1.03 million researching the effectiveness of Julia Gillard's taxpayer funded carbon tax advertising campaign. This follows revelations that Labor has installed a secret spin team charged with selling the carbon tax at a cost of \$1 million a year.

# Adding up carbon tax blitz costs

Daily Telegraph,  
20 April 2012

# Failed Malaysia solution

# 22

Labor wasted more than \$5 million on its failed Malaysian deal, including \$360,000 refurbishing motels in Malaysia, almost \$50,000 on rent, \$4.6 million in operating costs, \$272,000 on its legal defence in the High Court and another \$200,000 on “accrued costs”.

The Age,  
18 October 2011

## Failed Malaysia solution cost more than \$5m

By **KIRSTY NEEDHAM**

IMMIGRATION CORRESPONDENT

THE federal government wasted more than \$5 million on the failed Malaysia deal, and is yet to budget for the expected increase in boat arrivals.

Immigration Department secretary Andrew Metcalfe has

also reduced the risk of the Commonwealth being sued for wrongful imprisonment. But he warned that many asylum seekers would be unable to find jobs, even if granted work rights, because they do not speak English. “I suspect many people would find it a challenge to find

already spent \$360,000 refurbishing motels in Malaysia, almost \$50,000 on rent, \$4.6 million in operating costs, \$272,000 on its legal defence in the High Court and another \$200,000 on “accrued costs” before the Malaysia deal was declared illegal.

# Blow out in fat cat ranks

# 23

The number of SES level staff in the public service has blown out by 185 in the last three years. With an average SES pay level of approximately \$150,000, this blow out is costing taxpayers an extra \$30 million a year.

The Prime Minister's department and the Department of Climate Change were the biggest movers, increasing the number of SES staff from 42 to 90 and 18 to 56 respectively.

# Fat cats getting a bigger pay lick

Daily Telegraph,  
3 November 2011

# Labor's literacy and numeracy wipe-out

# 24

Christopher Pyne,  
Media Release,  
14 June 2012

The Auditor General has found that Labor's literacy and numeracy national partnership program has produced no improvement in student outcomes, despite \$540 million in payments over the last four years.

## \$322m literacy push gets a fail

JULIA Gillard's signature education policy aimed at lifting national literacy and numeracy standards has failed to produce any noticeable improvements

takings made to qualify for a share of the extra federal money. Auditor-General Ian McPhee has also found that a website on the national partnership promised

The Australian,  
15 June 2012

# PM's staff blow-out

# 25

Staff numbers in the Prime Minister's office has blown out by almost 30% since Labor came to office in 2007, costing an additional \$1m a year. This is despite Labor promising at the 2007 election to slash ministerial staffing levels.

The Australian,  
8 November 2010

## Staff 'blow-out' in office of PM & Cabinet

## PM's staffing overload

**Anna Caldwell**  
IN CANBERRA

STAFF numbers in the Prime Minister's office have blown out by almost 30 per cent since

All on handsome six-figure salaries – possibly up to more than \$225,000 – the group of four “principal” advisers includes the unusual mix of two chiefs-of-staff.

member of the PM's staff to give assistance to the spouse in official duties. The PM's spokesman declined to comment on the overall increase in staffing numbers.

Courier Mail,  
14 June 2011

The Environment Department has signed a \$500,000 contract to deck out its offices with indoor plants. Not to be outdone, the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations forked out more than \$1 million to decorate offices with pot plants.

Courier Mail,  
31 May 2011

## Bureaucrats splurge \$1m on office plants



eral Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations had embarked on its own "Building the

The revelations come as the Federal Government faces strict efficiency dividends to reduce spending.

by the department, the cost of plants at between \$300,000 and \$400,000 each year was relatively small, Ms Paul

# Gold-plated coffee machines

# 27

Federal public servants are purchasing gold-plated coffee machines at a cost of \$15,000 each. The Department of Innovation spent \$75,000 on buying and installing five high-end coffee machines for its Canberra offices. The Clean Energy Regulator spent \$20,000 on eight machines.

**Courier Mail,  
14 August 2012**

## We pay to perk up officials' daily grind

**Anna Caldwell**  
IN CANBERRA

LABOR'S bureaucrats are handed down its May Budget promising "restraint", the same "not unusual" for organisations splashing taxpayer money to deck their offices out with department also spent a further \$45,000 on a two-year deal to increase efficiency and \$15,000 coffee machines. to "provide amenities for staff

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# NBN Truck

# 28

Labor has sent Origami style cardboard cut outs of a \$1.4 million taxpayer funded truck to all federal MPs to supposedly help them 'understand' how the NBN works. The actual truck, a prime mover with a specially fitted out trailer, has been organised to travel the country to promote the NBN.

Daily Telegraph,  
12 June 2012

**Federal Opposition slams campaign wastage**  
**NBN truck a 'PR stunt'**



# Departments splurge on media monitoring

# 29

Government agencies are spending more than \$10.3 million a year checking what is said about them in the media. This bill would pay for more than \$100 full-time staff each earning \$100,000 a year.

The Department of Health spent \$940,000 on press clips and transcripts in 2011-12. Defence spent \$872,000. The Department of Industry, Innovation, Science and Research rounds out the top-three, wasting \$850,000.

**The Australian,  
27 August 2012**

# Departments splurge \$10m on monitoring the media

# More asylum seeker cost blowout

# 30

The cost of renting and furnishing houses in the community for asylum seekers is costing on average \$9,100 for each house, almost 30% more expensive than the original estimate of \$7,100 for the average family of five.

Daily Telegraph,  
25 July 2012

## \$9100 to make asylum home

GEMMA JONES  
POLITICAL REPORTER

THE cost of furnishing homes for asylum seekers has reached \$6.6 million, with a total of more than \$82 million going to the Red Cross for community detention costs.

The costs can be revealed as

north of Christmas Island after it requested assistance.

Already 1438 people have arrived on 21 boats in July.

The MPs will now take "further advice from experts" after hearing yesterday from the Department of Immigration, DFAT, the UNHCR and the RAN and will meet again on August 6 "with a

cost \$7100 and almost \$10,000 for very large families. The total bill to taxpayers to equip the homes with everything from beds and bedding to kitchenware and a TV is \$6.6 million.

Packages are provided through the Red Cross, which was recently given \$118 million by the government — 70 per

Morrison said yesterday.

"The total value of contracts entered into by the government for providing community detention has been revealed as \$245 million."

A spokeswoman for Immigration Minister Chris Bowen said community places were cheaper than housing asylum

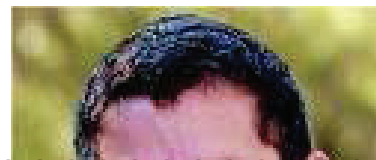
# Blow out in selecting ABC and SBS directors

# 31

Senate estimates revealed that Senator Conroy spent \$525,719 to select 11 ABC and SBS directors. At about \$50,000 for each position, Senator Conroy appears to have created an incredibly wasteful and expensive process to fill ABC and SBS board vacancies.

## ‘Blowout’ in ABC, SBS merit appointments

**RECRUITMENT:** Selecting the ABC chairman and board members for the ABC and SBS was more costly because



**The Australian,**  
21 May 2012

# Billiard table sale farce

# 32

Government bureaucrats sold two billiard tables for \$6000 and then promptly stumped up \$100,000 to investigate whether the sale was value for money.

**Courier Mail,  
18 October 2011**

## Taxpayers out of pocket in billiard table sale farce

**Anna Caldwell**  
IN CANBERRA

GOVERNMENT bureaucrats  
have sold two billiard tables

terday revealed that the tables were once valued at more than \$5800 each, although they had been assessed as having "no heritage value".

administrative processes," he said.

Senator Faulkner described the affair a "circus", and was furious the department couldn't

# Dodgy project gets taxpayer funds

# 33

Greg Hunt,  
Media Release,  
21 September 2012

Labor has paid more than half a million dollars for a questionable accounting scheme for Kenya. The \$550,000 tender has been awarded to the Clinton Foundation for designing a national carbon accounting system.

The Foundation's expertise is not in carbon accounting but in HIV/AIDS which provides practical assistance for developing countries.

## Treasurer blasted over Clinton 'gift'

**MALCOLM FARR**

TREASURER Wayne Swan has defended a Federal Government gift to a foundation run by Bill Clinton.

urer to be playing in partisan US politics and that is not in Australia's interests," Mr Hunt said. "Against that background, it seems even odder that they are

Advertiser,  
22 September 2012

# Gillard blows \$53k on running a blog

# 34

While most people run blogs at no cost; Julia Gillard has spent \$53,000 running two that will run for about three months. The blogs feature little more than articles about Australia-Asia relations and just one reader has bothered to leave a comment.

One of the two blogs doesn't even allow readers to comment – a staple of online blogs. Taxpayers are forking out for a fulltime editor and a part time assistant to run one of the blogs.

**Courier Mail,  
24 May 2012**

## Outcry over \$53k blogs

**Anna Caldwell**  
IN CANBERRA

THE Gillard Government has spent \$53,000 on something thousands of Australians do for free – running a blog.

Taxpayers will foot the bill for two blogs for about three months, featuring little more than articles about Australia-Asia relations.

Just one reader has bothered to leave a comment on the blogs, despite the sites being designed to engage with the

websites.

The blogs, operating from March 19 to June 30, have been outsourced by the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet to private think tanks the Lowy Institute and the Australia Institute of International Affairs.

Liberal Senator Scott Ryan described the blogs as “extraordinary expenditure with lacklustre results”, and criticised their lack of community engagement.

The Lowy Institute is being handed about \$500 per working day – a \$33,000 contract – to

deputy secretary Renee Leon defended the cost, describing the work as “analytical”.

Senator Ryan said the contractors were expected to moderate and provide input in the online conversation.

“It does require more than an ICT posting process . . . it does require a level of intellectual engagement with the issues,” Ms Leon said.

She said taxpayers were forking out for blog set-up, editorial oversight, commissioned writing, web hosting and subscriber

# Tea ceremonies and basket weaving

# 35

Clean Energy Future website:  
<http://www.cleanenergyfuture.gov.au/living-green-drinking-tea-and-weaving/>

Labor has handed out a \$72,000 grant to the Auburn Community Development Network to host an 'enviro tea salon'. Thanks to the funding, participants can now take part in "a weaving workshop" using "native Lemandra grass". Participants will be "...encouraged to share their energy efficiency tips in exchange for a free seeding, re-potted into a recycled coffee cup sourced from local businesses."

The screenshot shows the Clean Energy Future website interface. At the top, there is the Australian Government logo and the slogan "working together for a cleanenergyfuture". A search bar is visible with a "Go" button. The navigation menu includes "CLEAN ENERGY FUTURE", "HELPING HOUSEHOLDS", "HELPING BUSINESS", "WHY WE NEED TO ACT", and "NEWS". The main article title is "Living Green, drinking tea and weaving", posted on Friday, May 11th, 2012. The article text describes an "enviro tea salon" event where participants can share energy efficiency tips for a free seeding of Lemandra grass. A sidebar on the right titled "Stay connected" includes social media icons for RSS, Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and Email. Below that, a "News" section lists two articles: "A pint of carbon neutral please" and "Practical information on energy efficiency at heart of grants program".

# Australian Research Council waste

# 36

The Australian Research Council has spent over \$2 million on questionable research projects like climate change emotion and ancient economic life in Italy.

Projects included \$197,302 for “Sending and responding to messages about climate change: the role of emotion and morality”; \$314,000 for a study to determine if birds are shrinking; and \$145,000 for a study of sleeping snails to determine “factors that aid life extension”.

Daily Telegraph,  
5 March 2012

## Shell out for snails

### The climate change research costing taxpayers \$300m

Gemma Jones  
Political Reporter

MILLIONS of dollars in government research funding is being ploughed into studies of emotion in climate change messages, ancient economic life in Italy and the history of the moon.

Studies of sleeping snails and determining if Australian birds are getting smaller because of climate change have also been allocated funding in the latest round of grants totalling

how Florence in ancient times recovered from an economic downturn and because no one had studied that element of history before.

Another project titled “Sending and responding to messages about climate change: the role of emotion and morality” by a Queensland university secured \$197,302. The council said it was an important psychology project

dollar could be put to backing innovation and research and development to make us more competitive, we have seen a growth in support for some real eye-brow-raising activities,” opposition finance spokesman Andrew Robb said.

“Australian Research Council criteria has been extended beyond the scientific, the innovative





# Carbon tax advertising for toddlers

# 37

Simon Birmingham,  
Media Release,  
13 February 2012

Hundreds of thousands of taxpayer dollars are going to promote the carbon tax to toddlers as part of Labor's multi-million dollar carbon tax campaign. The Department of Climate Change has provided grants for:

- \$150,000 to Dirtgirlworld Productions Pty Ltd – producer of children's television program popular with toddlers.
- \$200,000 to Green Cross Australia to run carbon tax 'Show and Tell' programs in primary schools.

# Climate campaign turns to toddlers

Courier Mail,  
14 February 2012

# ACTU Carbon tax funding

# 38

Simon Birmingham,  
Media Release,  
13 February 2012

Labor has handed the Australian Council of Trade Unions \$93,000 to teach union officials how to sell the carbon tax to their members.

tralia to run climate programs in primary schools and \$93,000 to the Australian Council of Trade Unions.

The grants are designed to provide information about climate change and energy reduction policies, including the carbon tax.

The department's assistant secretary, James White, defended the grants to

Courier Mail,  
14 February 2012

# Customs funding slashed, but spends up on media monitoring

# 39

Michael Keenan,  
Media Release,  
8 March 2012

Labor has spent \$110,000 in six months on media monitoring for the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service, while at the same time cutting vital funds from frontline border protection services.

The screenshot shows the AusTender website interface. At the top, it features the Australian Government logo and the AusTender logo with the tagline 'THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT TENDER SYSTEM'. Below the header, there is a navigation bar with 'Home' and 'Keyword Search'. The main content area displays 'Contract Notice View - CN461407'. A sidebar on the left contains a login form with fields for 'Username (email)' and 'Password', and a 'Login' button. Below the login form are sections for 'View' (with links to Pre-Release Notices, Current ATMs, Closed ATMs, Contract Notices, Standing Offer Notices, Current Multi-Use Lists, Closed Multi-Use Lists, Procurement Plans, and Reports), 'Info & Links' (with links to Agency Addresses, Related Links, Help, and Contact Us), and 'Policies' (with links to Policy Documents, Procurement Document Library, Terms of Use, and Privacy Statement). The main content area includes a breadcrumb trail: 'Home > Keyword Search > Contract Notice View - CN461407'. Below this, there is a section for '114911 - Provision of Professional Services' with the following details:

|                                   |                                                                                       |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>CN ID</b>                      | CN461407                                                                              |
| <b>Agency</b>                     | Australian Customs and Border Protection Service                                      |
| <b>Publish Date</b>               | 1-Feb-2012                                                                            |
| <b>Category</b>                   | Temporary personnel services                                                          |
| <b>Contract Period</b>            | 1-Aug-2011 to 30-Jun-2012<br>Original: 1-Aug-2011 to 30-Feb-2012                      |
| <b>Contract Value (AUD)</b>       | \$180,000.00<br>Original: \$109,620.72                                                |
| <b>Description</b>                | 114911 - Provision of Professional Services                                           |
| <b>Amendments</b>                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>CN461407-A1 - Extension (24-May-2012)</li></ul> |
| <b>Procurement Method</b>         | Limited tender                                                                        |
| <b>Confidentiality - Contract</b> | No                                                                                    |
| <b>Confidentiality - Outputs</b>  | No                                                                                    |
| <b>Consultancy</b>                | No                                                                                    |
| <b>Supplier Details</b>           |                                                                                       |
| <b>Name</b>                       | Media Monitors                                                                        |
| <b>Postal Address</b>             | 131 Canberra Avenue                                                                   |
| <b>Town/City</b>                  | Griffith                                                                              |
| <b>Postcode</b>                   | 2603                                                                                  |
| <b>State/Territory</b>            | ACT                                                                                   |
| <b>Country</b>                    | AUSTRALIA                                                                             |
| <b>ABN</b>                        | 11 002 533 851                                                                        |

Agency Details

# Wasteful aid spending

# 40

\$600 million of Australia's foreign Aid program is being spent on developing climate change "leaders" in the Pacific, making DVDs and writing policy briefs for overseas bureaucrats on climate change.

Daily Telegraph,  
2 March 2012

## It's raining Aussie cash

**Steve Lewis**  
National Political  
Correspondent

AUSTRALIA will spend \$600 million developing climate change "leaders" in the

spent to "retrofit" houses in poor African communities while \$15 million will be pumped into helping villagers on the Mekong Delta in Vietnam.

The opposition last night called on Prime Minister Julia

are being channelled into tackling climate change overseas — despite questions over the effectiveness of spending millions in far-flung regions.

Around \$3 million is being spent to "build a group of

spending "an outrageous abuse of Australian foreign aid".

"I call on the Prime Minister to immediately suspend this expenditure on programs that will have zero impact on global emissions," she said.

# Globetrotting Climate Change Bureaucrats

# 41

Public Servants from the Department of Climate Change spent \$3.1 million on overseas travel in 2010. This equates to about \$250,000 a month. 86 staff travelled first or business class during 2010, taking more than 250 individual trips to cities such as Paris, London, New York, and Madrid. Reasons for travel included “energy efficient discussions”.

**Climate  
change  
fat cats  
go global**

Daily Telegraph  
24 November 2011

# Multiple Speakers = multiple bills for the taxpayer

# 42

The endless rotation of Speakers during this Parliamentary term will leave taxpayers with a bill of almost \$100,000 in portrait costs. Former Speaker Peter Slipper is set to be immortalised on the walls in Parliament House with a portrait costing taxpayers \$30,000.

This follows the recently completed \$30,000 portrait of Harry Jenkins, who Labor removed as Speaker in favour of Mr Slipper. After Mr Slipper's resignation, a third Speaker was installed, guaranteeing the need for at least one more \$30,000 portrait.

**Herald Sun,  
16 October 2012**

## Slipper set to be immortalised with our cash

**Patrick Lion**

HE may have resigned in disgrace but former Speaker Peter Slipper is now considering which artist to choose for an official portrait set to cost taxpayers more than \$30,000.

A Senate committee was yesterday told Mr Slipper visi-

shortlist of artists so he could be painted into political history.

The portraits are bestowed upon top officeholders such as prime ministers and speakers but the Department of Parliamentary Services yesterday would not comment if Mr Slipper's ongoing controversies could cancel the honour.

worth of legal bills – but Mr Slipper is still fighting sexual harassment claims from Mr Ashby while separate fraud claims are being considered by the DPP.

DPS secretary Carol Mills said it would be up to Mr Slipper how he chose to dress for the portrait.

Famously, Mr Slipper insisted on black robes and white bow ties for his official uniform.

Mr Slipper resigned last week after offensive text messages were revealed.

The department will also have to find the \$30,000 artist commission fee plus travel costs for portraits of former

# Identity branding

# 43

Greg Hunt,  
Media Release,  
13 February 2012

Taxpayers will be forced to foot a \$200,000 bill for the Department of Climate Change to contemplate how it brands itself.

# Carbon tax a spin windfall

**Gemma Jones**  
Political Reporter

THE Department of Climate Change — in charge of overseeing



will start at \$23 a tonne in July and rise to \$29 before being set by the market from 2015.

Europe's price, which Mr Combet said was once comparable, i

Daily Telegraph,  
13 February 2012

# “National Carbon Offset Standard” logo

# 44

Labor blew \$60,000 on designing a “National Carbon Offset Standard” logo - a logo experts say has no ‘wow’ factor.

**Herald Sun,  
24 May 2011**

## Libs see red over cost of a dull green logo

**Matt Johnston and  
Jessica Craven**

A NEW logo for a government body that assesses the green claims of businesses has cost taxpayers \$61,000.

And to rub salt into taxpayers’ wounds, a marketing expert says the new brand has no “wow” factor.

The National Carbon Offset Standard was set up last year to set standards for organisations claiming they were carbon neutral, and to ensure no exaggerations were made when green credentials were spruiked.

The Federal Opposition hit out at the logo cost, saying it was another example of wasteful spending.



“You decide,” Senator Abetz said.

Brand strategy expert Dr Stephen Downes said the logo was neither distinctive nor memorable.

“To come out with that as the end result for \$60,000 looks disappointing. But it



# Labor Ministers secretly approving grants in their own electorates

# 45

Labor Ministers have breached their own rules on pork-barrelling after approving grants in their own electorates at least 33 times without properly telling the Finance department. And on 11 occasions, grants were approved by Ministers that government agencies recommended should be rejected! As Education Minister, Julia Gillard approved grants to three schools in defiance of recommendations by her own department.

## 77 grants in MPs' own electorates

Audit office calls for overhaul of reporting and rules

By **DAVID WROE**  
CANBERRA

GOVERNMENT ministers have approved grants in their own electorates at least 33 times without properly telling the Finance Department, an audit has found.

A report released yesterday by the Australian National Audit Office found that on another 11 occasions, grants

more closely with other agencies to ensure minimum standards were understood.

The Auditor-General also was critical of agencies and departments not publicly reporting grants on their websites.

The Coalition quickly seized on the report covering the period from January 2009 and July 2011. Shadow Finance Minister Andrew Robb said it

Department. The auditors' report looked at 800 ministerial briefs and found that on 77 occasions, ministers had approved grants in their own seats — 33 of which were not reported to the Finance Department as required. The report stated this showed "an underreporting in the relevant period of some 38 per cent". A spokeswoman for Finance Minister Penny Wong said the

**The Age,**  
25 January 2012

# Public servants receive advice on 'getting a good night's sleep'

# 46

The Department of Parliamentary Services has spent about \$2.4 million on "staff related and training" purposes – up \$475,000 on the previous year. The Department's annual report reveals the classes include advice on "getting a good night's sleep".

Herald Sun,  
18 October 2011

## Your tax paying for sleep classes

Matt Johnston

TAXPAYERS are funding health seminars that teach public servants how to sleep well at night.

for Australians to pay for sleep classes while they were up at night worrying about the cost of living.

yesterday, the department also revealed it had spent about \$100,000 on reviews into the sale of billiard

# PM's training workshops

# 47

The Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet spent \$650,000 on training workshops in Julia Gillard's first 15 months as Prime Minister. The department has spent thousands of dollars hiring performance coaches, some of who boast of improving emotional intelligence and 'putting the lights on.'

**The Australian,  
19 September 2011**

# \$650,000 spent 'to put the lights on'

# Hot water systems

# 48

Julia Gillard has received a new \$66,000 hot water system at The Lodge, equivalent to replacing hot water systems in about 20 ordinary homes. And the new system isn't even solar!

# DOWN THE DRAIN

# \$66,000 so PM can have a hot shower

# Homes fund admin cost soars

# 49

Over \$20 million has been wasted on administration costs to deliver new homes in Aboriginal communities under the \$65 million Strategic Indigenous Housing and Infrastructure Program. Yet again, Labor has been shown to be incapable of implementing a program without wasting millions of dollars in the process.

**The Australian,  
20 January 2011**

## Half of homes funding lost to admin

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**PATRICIA KARVELAS**

HALF the funds set aside to construct and renovate houses in the remote Aboriginal community of Wadeye are going towards admin-

work on the new houses to Thamarrurr Development Corporation.

Ninety out of the 105 houses planned for Wadeye are either completed or under construction.

The budget obtained by *The*

part of building houses," the spokeswoman said.

"You cannot build a house without proper planning, or a workforce to deliver the project.

"This includes essentials such as project design and scoping, site

# Green fund rip-off

# 50

Taxpayers are forking out \$2022 for each tonne of carbon dioxide saved under Labor's Green Precincts Fund. This is compared to the \$23 a tonne carbon price under the Labor/Greens carbon tax.

Labor has splurged \$15 million on a dozen 'demonstration' projects under the program, including a grant to Cate Blanchett's Sydney Theatre Company to reduce their energy bill by \$98,000, but cost the Australian taxpayer \$1.2 million.

Sunday Mail,  
23 January 2011

## Scheme in the red

### Spending to save

**Samantha Maiden**

NATIONAL POLITICAL EDITOR

TAXPAYERS are spending millions of dollars to subsidise

program cost is \$5 million.

The cost of reducing greenhouse gas emissions is sky high under the scheme compared to the Government's failed bid to introduce an emissions trading scheme with a carbon price of around \$30 a tonne.

Based on the projected sav-

Federal Budget, the projects are designed to save 142 megalitres of water and 9 million kilowatt hours of energy.

The scheme has proven a winner for lucky recipients including the Sydney Theatre Company, whose general manager Patrick McIntyre con-



