



Paul Fletcher MP

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR BRADFIELD



MESSAGE *from Paul*

Australians are facing a cost of living crisis — and here in Bradfield many are feeling the impact.

We've all noticed higher prices for food, groceries, gas and electricity.

The average Australian household with a mortgage is now \$35,000 worse off than when Labor came to power.

The Albanese Labor Government's recent Budget was a missed opportunity to tackle the cost of living crisis.

Instead, we saw a big spending Budget — Labor's total new spending has reached \$315 billion — which will put upward pressure on inflation and interest rates.

There is more information in this newsletter about the Budget, the Coalition's positive policy proposals, and my work in the community.

As ever, if I can ever assist you in dealing with government, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Yours sincerely

Paul Fletcher

Federal Member for Bradfield

Under Labor, Australians are going backwards



**Electricity prices
have gone up**



**Gas prices
have gone up**



**Mortgages
have gone up**



**Rents
have gone up**



**Taxes
have gone up**



**Unemployment
is going up**



**Disposable income
is down**

AN INFLATIONARY BUDGET

This Budget fails the key test – to tackle inflation at the source. That is the only way to deliver lasting cost of living relief.

Instead, Labor's spending is up by \$315 billion.

That is \$30,000 of additional spending for every Australian household. Extra spending doesn't take pressure off inflation. Rather, it makes it worse.

The average Australian household with a mortgage is \$35,000 worse off.

Even the RBA Governor said that inflation is now "homegrown".

Australia is in a cost of living crisis – and this Budget was a missed opportunity to tackle that crisis.



PICKING INDUSTRY WINNERS IS A BIG RISK!

Labor has committed billions of dollars to its Future Made in Australia initiative, that purports to bolster local manufacturing.

This includes \$13.7 billion in taxpayer funded subsidies for some businesses identified as winners by Labor.

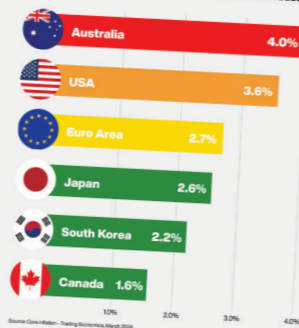
Picking winners is a huge risk. It is not the job of politicians to decide which businesses are best placed to succeed in the market, but rather it is to foster and create the economic conditions that enable industry to thrive.

This includes lower taxes, simplifying our costly and cumbersome industrial relations system and getting energy costs down.

Business insolvencies are now at levels not seen in a decade.

That is the consequence of anti-business, anti-investment policies – and it will not be fixed by picking a few favourites to get special treatment.

AUSTRALIA'S CORE INFLATION IS HIGHER THAN MOST MAJOR ECONOMIES.



Labor's Budget confirms a **1.67 MILLION** migrant intake over 5 years **WITH NO REAL PLAN FOR HOUSING OR INFRASTRUCTURE**

Source: Labor's 2024 Budget

NO END IN SIGHT TO THE HOUSING CRISIS

The Budget confirms a 1.67 million migrant intake over five years, with no real plan for housing or infrastructure.

The Prime Minister has promised 1.2 million new homes over five years. Most credible independent commentators expect that will fall at least 400,000 short.

We all celebrate the contribution of migrants, but we need housing and infrastructure, such as schools and hospitals, to support them.

The number of new houses being built is at an 11-year low – yet this Labor Government is bringing in record numbers of people.

For too many Australians home ownership has become out of reach, while rents have had the biggest increase since 2009.

LABOR'S BAND-AID SOLUTION TO SKYROCKETING ENERGY PRICES

The Coalition supports any help for families and small businesses with high energy costs, but the Albanese Government's \$300 rebate for households is a band-aid solution.

Before the election the Prime Minister promised energy bills would fall by \$275. But Australians have not seen their energy bills fall. Instead, the typical annual bill is up by \$1,000 more.

IMPORTANT INITIATIVES BEING FUNDED

The Budget does deliver some important and worthwhile initiatives. This includes:

- \$3.4 billion to add life changing and life saving medicines to PBS
- \$1 billion towards accommodation for women and children fleeing domestic violence

BROKEN PROMISE CONFIRMED

Mr Albanese has broken his promise to reduce power bills by \$275

The verdict on Labor's Budget

The most irresponsible budget in recent memory FINANCIAL REVIEW

McCran: Federal budget just more crazily out-of-control spending Herald Sun

Spending addiction fuels a new decade of deficits FINANCIAL REVIEW



WE NEED TO GET BACK TO BASICS

In these uncertain times, we needed a Budget that gets back to basics.

We needed a Budget that:

RESTORED OUR STANDARD OF LIVING

by finally addressing inflation and the pressures being felt by families at the checkout and in their energy bills.

RESTORED PROSPERITY AND CREATED OPPORTUNITY

by supporting small businesses and helping young Australians into a home.

RESTORED BUDGET DISCIPLINE AND HONESTY

by restraining spending, bringing back the fiscal guardrails, a tax to GDP cap and delivering a structural surplus not a windfall surplus.

POSITIVE PROPOSALS FROM THE COALITION

SUPPORTING OLDER AUSTRALIANS AND VETERANS

We know many older Australians want to work for longer and that is a good thing.

If re-elected, a Coalition Government will recommit to increasing the amount older Australians and veterans can work without reducing pension payments.

We will double the existing work bonus from \$300 per fortnight to \$600, which is estimated to benefit over 80,000 pensioners and veterans who choose to work.



REVERSING THE SHORTAGE IN GPs

Families want to know that they can access a GP when required.

In response to the shortage in GPs, we will invest \$400 million to provide junior doctors who train in general practice with incentive payments and support to continue in this crucial profession.

CURRENTLY
Junior doctors who enter general practice earn about three-quarters of the salary of their counterparts in hospitals

LIBERAL PROPOSAL
We will invest \$400 million to provide junior doctors who train in general practice with incentive payments and better entitlements

Addressing the shortage of GPs

STRENGTHENING ONLINE SAFETY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

All parents are concerned about the safety of their children online. At their fingertips, children have access to a disturbing volume of inappropriate content.

We welcome the government's belated decision to back the Coalition's policy for an age verification trial.

But unlike Labor, we will include social media platforms like Instagram and TikTok in such a trial.



Out and about in the community



In April, I held 15 community listening posts over three days across the electorate, from Castle Cove in the south to Hornsby in the north. Thank you to the several hundred people who attended.

A range of issues including Labor's tax on superannuation, the rising cost of living, and NSW Labor's Transport Oriented Development, were raised with me.

I am busy now following up on the issues raised with me, sending plenty of letters and emails to Commonwealth and State Ministers and plenty of government agencies.



Anzac Day

I was honoured to attend Anzac Day services at Roseville Memorial Park (organised by Roseville Memorial Club), at Wahroonga and Turrumurra memorials (organised by the Scouts) and at the St Ives memorial (organised by St Ives Lions Club). As usual, there was a very strong community attendance from all services. Lest we forget.



International Women's Day

To celebrate International Women's Day on 8 March, I invited students from high schools across the Bradfield electorate to a breakfast and talk with former senior Minister Marise Payne. Thank you to Ravenswood School for Girls for hosting this great event.

Rally against proposed NSW planning laws

Concerned citizens from across Sydney came together outside NSW Parliament on 12 March in response to the NSW Labor Government's rushed changes to planning laws. There was a strong roll up of Bradfield constituents. The consultation process has been terrible and many of my constituents are very concerned. I spoke at the gathering on behalf of the community I represent.



SES Visit

I dropped into our local Ku-ring-gai State Emergency Service depot in Wahroonga to catch up with this wonderful group of volunteers who do such important work in times of flood and storm.



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