



The Hon Anthony Albanese  
Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional  
and Local Government  
Leader of the House

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By: MINISTER CONROY

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## Media Statement

### TONY ABBOTT DITCHES HIS MIDLAND HIGHWAY PROMISE

Tony Abbott has abandoned his promise to spend \$400 million upgrading Tasmania's Midland Highway, yet again exposing the duplicitous nature of anything he says.

During a scripted address to a community luncheon in Launceston on 18 February – just three months ago – Mr Abbott unambiguously said:

**“...a future federal government will spend the \$400 million that will be needed to duplicate the Midland Highway all the way from Hobart to Launceston.”**

He repeated the promise that very same day, this time while standing beside the Highway:

**“...a Coalition government will fund the upgrade of the Midland Highway to the tune of \$400 million over ten years, starting in 2014. This is a very important road in the state and really, nationally. This road is at the very heart of Tasmania.”**

But this \$400 million promise is not contained in the costings document released this week by Mr Abbott's Shadow Finance Minister. In fact, there's no mention of the highway at all.

Mr Abbott's February promise has disappeared, proving that even when he makes a Gospel truth, written down and fully scripted promise it simply cannot be trusted.

Under the leadership of Mr Abbott, the Liberal and National parties are treating Tasmanians like mugs: telling them one thing to their face while doing the complete opposite when they think no one is looking.

For our part, the Rudd Labor Government has more than doubled to \$800 million Federal spending on Tasmania's road and rail infrastructure, with \$190 million of this funding earmarked for projects along the Midland Highway.

**Media Contact: Jeff Singleton 0410 476 890**

**Friday, 21 May 2010**



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## **Media Statement**

### **JUBILEE BRIDGE PROMISE “DISCONTINUED”**

The Federal Opposition has abandoned its promise to contribute \$8 million towards building a replacement Jubilee Bridge in Innisfail, exposing the duplicitous nature of the recent statements made by the Leader of National Party Warren Truss.

Documents released last week by the Shadow Finance Minister Andrew Robb confirm that funding for a new bridge is **NOT** a commitment the Liberal and National parties will honour if elected later this year – see attachment.

According to Mr Robb, the promise made by Mr Truss has “been discontinued.”

Under the leadership of Phoney Tony, Mr Truss and his colleagues have been treating the communities of Far North Queensland like mugs: telling them one thing to their faces while doing the complete opposite when they think no one is looking.

In February, Mr Truss and his Party’s candidate for Kennedy, Ed Morrison, attended a public meeting organised to discuss the future of the Jubilee Bridge, reassuring the assembled locals that a Coalition government would kick in \$8 million to build a new bridge over the South Johnstone River between East Innisfail and the town’s CBD (*Tully Times*, p1, 18/02/10).

However we now know the “promise” made by Mr Truss and Mr Morrison was nothing more than cheap words, further proof that even when Phoney Tony and his colleagues make considered “Gospel truth” promises they still can’t be trusted.

Once again, the Nationals have been caught out over promising and under delivering – no wonder they currently represent the fewest number of regional electorates in the Federal Parliament.

**Media Contact:    Jeff Singleton        0410 476 890**

**Wednesday, 26 May 2010**



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## Media Statement

### **PHONEY TONY'S PARTY WALKS AWAY FROM THE PRINCES HIGHWAY**

The Federal Opposition has abandoned its promise to duplicate the Princes Highway between Winchelsea and Colac, exposing the spin and dishonesty of Phoney Tony's candidate for Corangamite Sarah Henderson.

Documents released last week by the Shadow Finance Minister Andrew Robb confirm that the duplication of the Highway beyond Winchelsea is **NOT** a commitment the Liberal and National parties will honour if elected later this year – see attachment.

According to Mr Robb, the Coalition's new found interest in this road has "been discontinued."

On 9 February, Ms Henderson issued a press release with the following carefully prepared and scripted remarks:

**"A duplicated highway through to Colac would be a major economic boost for the region. It [Labor] must stop its obsession with spin, get out in the real world and take action on critical projects such as this one."**

Opposition Leader Tony Abbott and his Shadow Treasurer Joe Hockey expressed similar views during separate visits to the region earlier this year.

We now know the only person that's been guilty of "spin" is Ms Henderson. Prior to the last election, her Party refused to commit any funding to this road and now their renewed interest in it has been exposed as a sham.

The Liberal Party's repeated failure to put their money where their mouth is is just further proof that none of Phoney Tony's "Gospel truth" road promises can ever be believed.

For our part, the Rudd Labor Government pledged \$110 million to duplicate the road between Waurn Ponds and Winchelsea – a commitment that's being matched dollar for dollar by the Brumby Labor Government.

Good progress is already being made on delivering this long overdue upgrade, with the detailed planning work currently being finalised and construction expected to start later this year.

**Media Contact: Jeff Singleton 0410 476 890**

**Wednesday, 26 May 2010**

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**PARLIAMENT HOUSE CANBERRA ACT 2600**

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## Media Statement

### **NATS WALK AWAY FROM THEIR PRINCES HIGHWAY PROMISES**

The Federal Opposition has abandoned its promise to upgrade the Princes Highway east of Sale, exposing Gippsland MP Darren Chester's failure to convince his own colleagues to honour the repeated undertakings he's given to his local community.

Documents released last week by the Shadow Finance Minister Andrew Robb confirm an upgrade to the Princes Highway between Sale and the NSW border is **NOT** a commitment the Liberal and National parties will honour if elected later this year – see attachment.

According to Mr Robb, Mr Chester's promise has "been discontinued."

In fact the Federal Opposition is refusing to commit any additional money to the Princes Highway, further proof the Nationals has been treating Gippsland residents like mugs: telling them one thing to their faces while knowing they will never deliver on the undertakings they give.

Earlier this year during a visit to Sale to formally announce that Mr Chester would be recontesting his seat at the coming election, Mr Truss made the following calm and considered remarks to the local paper:

**"We've committed to doing more on the Princes Highway than Labor has done because we know that it is important as a transport network...."**

*Gippsland Times & Maffra Spectator, p3, 05/03/10*

We now know Mr Truss was not speaking the "Gospel truth" at the time and that his "promise" was hollow. Once again, the Nationals have been caught out over promising and under delivering.

But this latest backflip by the Nationals should surprise no one – after all, they held the transport portfolio for the entire 12 years of the former government and couldn't be bothered funding any major improvements to this road.

For our part, the Rudd Labor Government is fully delivering on its 2007 election commitment: getting the duplication of the Highway between Traralgon and Sale underway.

In less than three years, we've allocated the funding, completed the necessary planning and appointed a builder. Construction workers and their machinery are now onsite.

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**Wednesday, 26 May 2010**

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## **Media Statement**

### **PHONEY TONY'S PARTY WALKS AWAY FROM THE OUTBACK WAY**

The Federal Opposition has abandoned its promise to upgrade the Outback Way, proof that Liberal Senator Ian Macdonald and Kalgoorlie MP Barry Haase have failed to convince their colleagues to honour the undertakings they've already given.

Documents released last week by the Shadow Finance Minister Andrew Robb confirm the upgrade of the road between Laverton (Western Australia) and Winton (Queensland) is **NOT** a commitment the Liberal and National parties will honour if elected later this year – see attachment.

According to Mr Robb, this Coalition promise has “been discontinued.”

Just two months ago, Mr Haase wrote to me asserting:

**“The Outback Way is a road of National significance and warrants recognition as such. Australia as a nation is over 220 years old and it is long overdue for a principle road across its interior.”**

This sentiment is shared by Senator Macdonald who told listeners of ABC Far North on 9 December 2009:

**“...I've been so passionate about the Outback Way; it opens up that area from Cairns right through to Perth.”**

We now know that his colleagues don't share the Senator's passion, with this failure to put their money where their mouth is yet another example of the Liberal Party over promising and under delivering.

**Media Contact: Jeff Singleton 0410 476 890**

**Wednesday, 26 May 2010**



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## Media Statement

### **NATS WALK AWAY FROM THEIR NEWELL HIGHWAY PROMISES**

The Federal Opposition has abandoned its promise to build more overtaking lanes along the Newell Highway, exposing the duplicitous nature of the statements made by Parkes MP Mark Coulton and Calare MP John Cobb.

Documents released last week by the Shadow Finance Minister Andrew Robb confirm funding for additional overtaking lanes is **NOT** a commitment the Liberal and National parties will honour if elected later this year – see attachment.

According to Mr Robb, the promise made by Mr Cobb and Mr Coulton has “been discontinued.”

In fact the Federal Opposition is refusing to commit any additional money to the Newell Highway, further proof the Nationals has been treating communities across the Central West like mugs: telling them one thing to their faces while doing very little to honour the undertakings they’ve given.

At the end of last year (12/11/09), Mr Coulton told the *Daily Liberal* that the Highway needed “...vital upgrades such as more overtaking lanes,” adding:

**“The debate over the Newell so far has been led by people who are more concerned about creating the impression they are doing something, rather than taking action to ensure the safety of the highway is improved.”**

We now know Mr Coulton and Mr Cobb are among those more interested in sounding tough than working with the community and authorities to reduce the carnage on this road.

Once again, the Nationals have been caught out over promising and under delivering – no wonder they currently represent the fewest number of regional electorates in the Federal Parliament.

For our part, the Rudd Labor Government will continue rolling out the \$195 million available under our *Nation Building Program* for this road, including the investment in 14 new and upgraded rest stops.

**Media Contact: Jeff Singleton 0410 476 890**

**Wednesday, 26 May 2010**



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## Media Statement

### **DUTTON'S PROMISES AREN'T WORTH THE PAPER THEY'RE WRITTEN ON**

Opposition Leader Tony Abbott has abandoned his personal promise to build on-off ramps along the Bruce Highway at Murrumba Downs and exposed the duplicitous nature of the letter Dickson MP Peter Dutton recently sent to local residents.

Documents released last week by the Shadow Finance Minister Andrew Robb confirm the new ramps are **NOT** a commitment the Liberal and National parties will honour if elected later this year – see attachment.

According to Mr Robb, the promise made by both Mr Abbott and Mr Dutton has “been discontinued.”

Under the leadership of Phoney Tony, Mr Dutton is treating his local community like mugs: telling them one thing to their faces while doing the complete opposite when he thinks no one is looking.

In February, Mr Dutton wrote to his electorate of Dickson unambiguously stating:

**“I committed at the last election that if the Coalition was elected we would fund the cost of the ramps and I will be re-pledging that commitment at the upcoming election.”**

This written undertaking was reconfirmed by Mr Abbott during a visit to the electorate less than four weeks ago, pledging \$10 million to get the job done (*Northern Times*, 28 April 2010)

As it turns out Mr Dutton has been promising these new ramps for almost five years, two of them being when he was a Minister in the former Howard Government and in a direct position to keep his word.

However, we now know this “promise” was not worth the paper it’s written on, further proof that even when Phoney Tony and his Liberal colleagues make carefully prepared and scripted promises they still cannot be trusted.

With such a poor record of delivering for the voters of Dickson, it’s no wonder Mr Dutton wanted to cut and run to a safer seat on the Gold Coast.

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**Wednesday, 26 May 2010**



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## Media Statement

### **GASH'S PRINCES HIGHWAY PROMISE "DISCONTINUED" BY PHONEY TONY**

In less than a month the Federal Opposition has abandoned its promise to spend \$20 million upgrading the Princes Highway south of Ulladulla, exposing the duplicitous nature of the statements made by Gilmore MP Joanna Gash.

Documents released last week by the Shadow Finance Minister Andrew Robb confirm the \$20 million is **NOT** a commitment the Liberal and National parties will honour if elected later this year – see attachment.

According to Mr Robb, Ms Gash's promise has "been discontinued."

Under the leadership of Phoney Tony, Ms Gash is treating South Coast residents like mugs: telling them one thing to their face while doing the complete opposite when she thinks no one is looking.

In a press release issued on 28 April, Ms Gash unambiguously stated in writing:

**"...a Coalition government would provide the \$20 million requested. What is needed is extraordinary funding, which is what I have asked for and is exactly what the Coalition is prepared to give in government."**

Ms Gash's "promise" followed a visit to the region by her leader Tony Abbott on 19 March. While in Nowra Mr Abbott told the gathered media:

**"...there are a lot of black spots beyond Nowra that really need to be looked at."**

We now know Ms Gash's "promise" has been discontinued, further proof that even when Liberal and National MPs make carefully prepared and scripted promises they still cannot be trusted.

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# Media Statement

## WARREN TRUSS FAILS TO DELIVER... YET AGAIN

The Federal Opposition has abandoned its promise to complete the duplication of the Bruce Highway between Cooroy and Curra by 2020, raising yet further questions about the integrity and honesty of the Nationals Leader Warren Truss.

Documents released last week by the Shadow Finance Minister Andrew Robb confirm the completion of the Cooroy to Curra project is **NOT** a commitment the Liberal and National parties will honour if elected later this year – see attachment.

According to Mr Robb, the promise made by Mr Truss has “been discontinued.”

Under the leadership of Phoney Tony, Mr Truss has been treating the residents of his own electorate like mugs: telling them one thing to their faces while doing the complete opposite when he thinks no one is looking.

Last August, the National Party’s Federal Council endorsed a policy platform which unambiguously stated that in government they would (page 23):

**“Complete the duplication of the Bruce Highway from Cooroy to Curra by 2022.”**

Earlier this month Mr Truss went even further, telling local residents:

**“We do need a timetable to finish it all and I still believe that it’s possible to do that by 2020.”**

Channel Seven (Sunshine Coast), 06/05/10

We now know that this frequently repeated “promise” from Mr Truss was a sham, further proof that Phoney Tony and his colleagues can’t be trusted even when they’re making “Gospel truth” promises.

What’s more, Mr Truss has clearly been rolled by his Liberal colleagues, with the proposed \$1.75 billion Toowoomba Bypass being the only road project in the country to receive Coalition support.

I call on Mr Truss to stop making promises he can’t honour. Local residents have endured his duplicitous comments long enough.

Here’s the bottom line: if the government in which Mr Truss was a senior member had acted during its 12 years in office then the duplication of the Highway between Cooroy and Curra would today be nearing completion.

**Media Contact: Jeff Singleton 0410 476 890**

**Wednesday, 26 May 2010**

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## **Media Statement**

### **HARTSUYKER FAILS TO DELIVER... AGAIN**

The Federal Opposition has abandoned its promise to build a bypass to the west of Coffs Harbour, exposing the false statements made by Cowper MP Luke Hartsuyker.

Documents released last week by the Shadow Finance Minister Andrew Robb confirm a Coffs Harbour bypass is **NOT** a commitment the Liberal and National parties will honour if elected later this year – see attachment.

According to Mr Robb, Mr Hartsuker's promise has "been discontinued."

In fact under the leadership of Phoney Tony the Federal Opposition is refusing to commit any additional money to the Pacific Highway, further proof that Mr Hartsuker has been treating North Coast residents like mugs: telling them one thing to their faces while doing very little when he thinks no one is looking.

Only two months ago (30/03/10), Mr Hartsuker told the *Coffs Coast Advocate*:

**"Getting heavy vehicles out of the centre of Coffs Harbour and places like Urunga, Woolgoolga and Macksville, has to be the most urgent infrastructure priority in Australia."**

We now know these were nothing more than cheap words.

Once again, the Nationals have been caught out over promising and under delivering – no wonder they currently represent the fewest number of regional electorates in the Federal Parliament.

For our part, the Rudd Labor Government will continue rolling out our unprecedented \$3.1 billion investment with more than 1,000 workers currently onsite building over 100 kilometres of new highway. Compared to our predecessors, we're spending more than double in half the time.

**Media Contact: Jeff Singleton 0410 476 890**

**Wednesday, 26 May 2010**



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## **Media Statement**

### **NATS WALK AWAY FROM THEIR NORTH COAST RAIL LINE PROMISE**

In less than four weeks the Federal Opposition has abandoned its promise to reopen the Casino to Murwillumbah rail line, exposing the dishonesty of the recent statements from senior members of the National Party.

Documents released last week by the Shadow Finance Minister Andrew Robb confirm the re-establishment of passenger rail service on the North Coast is **NOT** a commitment the Liberal and National parties will honour if elected later this year – see attachment.

According to Mr Robb, the promise made by the National Party and its candidate for Richmond Tania Murdoch has “been discontinued.”

Earlier this month, the *Northern Star* (07/05/10, p3) declared:

**“A Federal Coalition government would reopen the Casino-Murwillumbah rail line for light rail ... according to National Party leaders.”**

We now know this “promise” was a sham, yet further proof the Nationals have been treating North Coast residents like mugs: telling them one thing to their faces while knowing they will never be able to honour the undertakings they give.

Once again, the Nationals have been caught out over promising and under delivering – no wonder they currently represent the fewest number of regional electorates in the Federal Parliament.

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## Media Statement

### **PHONEY TONY DITCHES PROMISE TO BUILD EXTRA REST STOPS**

The Federal Opposition has abandoned its promise to build 500 new rest stops along the nation's highways, exposing the duplicitous nature of the comments made by the Leader of the National Party Warren Truss.

Documents released last week by the Shadow Finance Minister Andrew Robb confirm the extra rest stops are **NOT** a commitment the Liberal and National parties will honour if elected later this year – see attachment.

According to Mr Robb, Mr Truss's \$300 million promise has "been discontinued."

Under the leadership of Phoney Tony, Mr Truss and his National Party colleagues have been treating the trucking industry and truck drivers like mugs: telling them one thing to their faces while doing the complete opposite when they think no one is looking.

On 23 April 2009, Mr Truss in a written-down, fully scripted speech to the Australian Trucking Convention unambiguously said:

**"We will build an additional 500 road side stops over 10 years at an approximate cost of \$300 million..."**

This undertaking was subsequently incorporated into the official policy platform of the Nationals (page 23) after being endorsed by its Federal Council last August:

**"We will fund the construction of 500 new roadside stops for our truck drivers."**

We now know this "promise" from Mr Truss was a sham, further proof that even when Liberal and National MPs make carefully prepared and scripted promises they still cannot be trusted.

For our part, the Rudd Labor Government has been working with the trucking industry, as well as state and territory governments, to begin fixing the unacceptable lack of safe, modern facilities along the nation's highways.

In fact, our new \$70 million *Heavy Vehicle Safety and Productivity Program* is delivering the biggest single Federal investment in the roadside facilities used by truck drivers, including new and refurbished rest stops.

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**Wednesday, 26 May 2010**

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