Bringing Australia’s Education and Political Systems into the 21st Century to Create Greater Prosperity for all Australians
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Bringing Australia's Education and Political Systems into the 21st Century

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MAY 2013
This document sets out the Gold Coast Region policy priorities of the 21st Century Australia Party.
Meet some of the 21st Century Australia Party 2013 Federal Election Team.

Jamie McIntyre  
Founder of 21st Century Australia Party  
and candidate for New England  
NORTHERN NSW

Kade Lengyel  
Isaccs Electorate  
VICTORIA

Grace May Cobb  
McPherson Electorate  
GOLD COAST

Stuart Niddrie  
Dobell Electorate  
SYDNEY NSW

Kimberley Maurmo  
Makin Electorate  
SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Ammar Khan  
Chifley Electorate  
WESTERN SYDNEY

Fernando Alba  
Bowman Electorate  
BRISBANE
Candidate profile

“At a local level Grace will focus on introducing infrastructure, education and tourism policies”

Grace Cobb

Grace Cobb has been pre selected by the 21st Century Australia Party as our candidate for the seat of McPherson on the Gold Coast.

Grace has lived on the Gold Coast since moving here to pursue University Studies in 2008 and has been actively involved in the community as a Student, Journalist and Surf Life Saver.

Grace began in media as an intern at Channel Nine Gold Coast News and has since travelled both nationally and internationally in her work as a Television Presenter and Editor, working in broadcast and in developing a state of the art digital fashion and lifestyle publication.

Grace is keenly involved with developing the 21st Century Australia Parties Policies for change, championing an increase in the number of female MP’s and inspiring young Australians to become politically aware.

At a local level Grace will focus on introducing infrastructure, education and tourism policies.

Maximising the Coasts accessibility through high speed and light rail, job creation and making sure the McPherson electorate is well positioned to facilitate and benefit from tourism on the whole, but particularly the Commonwealth Games in 2018.

Grace supports a number of charities including 4ASD KIDS and is a passionate advocate and active member of Surf Life Saving Australia and a member of North Burleigh Surf Club.
Opening statement

Recognised as one of Australia’s most popular holiday destinations, to remain competitive in an increasingly crowded market place the Gold Coast needs to develop new, entrepreneurial and innovative products and create and attract new industries to cease it’s reliance on tourism for job creation.

Because of it’s virtually unique lifestyle and demographics compared to other areas of Australia the Gold Coast has it’s own unique opportunities and problems.

It is my vision and the vision of our party to turn the Gold Coast area into the entrepreneurial, high technology centre of excellence of Australia in the style of Silicon Valley in the US. The Gold Coast is ideally situated to make it perfectly feasible as both an entrepreneurial high technology centre of excellence that has the potential to create hundreds and even thousands of local jobs.

The Gold Coast provides cost, rental and leasing advantages for a high technology centre of excellence, combined with small city life style and commuting advantages.

We also strongly support the creation of infrastructure to create the Cruise Ship Capital of Australia on the Gold Coast, just like Miami is in the United States. The Gold Coast is an ideal location for cruise ship terminal with huge flow on benefits to the local tourism industry.

This issue of a cruise terminal is currently a political and environmental issue. However, properly managed it can provide long-term benefits, including job creation during construction. The long-term benefits of a cruise terminal and the flow on effect can bring in millions of dollars every year in new tourist revenue.

Huge flow on benefits to the Gold Coast from both of these proposals include further education and job creation.

Until the 1960s, the Gold Coast was just a string of sleepy coastal villages. The Gold Coast population explosion that has occurred since the 1960s is one of the amazing stories in Australian demographics.

The Gold Coast, which didn’t exist as a city before 1958 has grown to become Australia’s sixth largest urban centre, one of the fastest growing regions in our country, largest non-state capital city, as well as being an important retiree destination.

The Gold Coast covers an area of 1400 square kilometers, the city’s boundaries extend from just south of Beenleigh to Coolangatta, taking in South Stradbroke Island and part of Moreton Bay and extending west to the hinterland of Mount Tamborine and the Lamington and Darlington Ranges.

In June 2011 the City of Gold Coast’s population was 513,954 residents. This is expected to continue to grow by 13,000 to 16,000 people per year, so that by 2026 the City of Gold Coast will be home to over 730,000 residents. (ABS, Regional Population Growth, Australia,
People living on the Gold Coast aged over 65 is expected to increase to 20.2% of the population by 2031, a large increase over the 13.9% figure for 2006.

For the same time period people living on the Gold Coast aged 0-24 is expected to decrease to 29% of the population by 2031, a significant decrease from the 31.9% figure for 2006.

The median age of Gold Coast City Council’s population is projected to increase by 3.7 years from a median age of 37.6 years in 2006 to a median age of 41.3 years in 2031. (Population and Dwelling Profile, Gold Coast City Council, Office of Economic and Statistical Research, Queensland Treasury and Trade, April 2012.)

The Gold Coast Business News (August 2012) reported “population growth on the Gold Coast slowed dramatically in the last year which has widespread potential economic impact for the region, a peak development body has warned”.

“The Gold Coast attracted 9640 new residents in the year of June 2011 which was a 35 percent slide on the 14,940 average annual migration accumulated since 2001.

“Gold Coast Logan Urban Development Institute of Australia president Steve Harrison says population growth – once a hallmark of the city’s success – has been stifled by the challenge of delivering affordable living options.”

“Harrison has called on Mayor Tom Tate to deliver on his election pledges of scrapping Priority Infrastructure Plan (PIP) charges for shovel-ready projects.”

“The UDIA believes fast-tracking more projects will boost job opportunities across the region and make living on the Gold Coast affordable for more families.”

“It’s important that Council understands the population growth which underpinned the success of the Gold Coast has slowed compared to its own trends, and the trends of other Queensland destinations including Ipswich and Logan,” says Harrison.

“Sluggish population growth and higher than expected unemployment has increased the pressure on Council to deliver on Mayor Tom Tate’s pledge of scrapping PIP for shovel-ready projects.”

“Construction and development has been central to the success of the Gold Coast over past decades. But now skilled workers from the Coast are looking elsewhere to the mines, or Ipswich and Logan,” says Harrison.

“The Gold Coast has all the sought-after lifestyle attractions but the family dream of a three bedroom house with backyard was put beyond the means of most in recent years.”

The Gold Coast’s development industry continues to struggle as sales of vacant housing lots and new house-and-land packages track well below 20 year averages, according to a February 2013 Prodap Report.

The report’s author, Bill Morris, says combined sales of new housing and vacant land have been running at under 1000 a year, which compares with the long-term average of 4200 a year since 1995.

The dour sales figures are reflected in a 4.5 percent fall in Gold Coast house prices and a 7.3 per cent fall in unit prices over calendar 2012.

Morris says the Coast’s housing development sector has not seen such a “grim picture” since the 1981-82 recession.

“The sad news is that not even record low interest rates seem to have had any effect on the volume of sales; sad but true,” says Morris.

He says the city council’s Construction Kickstart initiative, which has cut infrastructure charges on a broad range of developments, appears to have had no effect on new production.
Gold Coast election issues
Feed back from voters in the Gold Coast electorates indicates these issues are of concern:

- Airport upgrades are an absolute must to attract a lot more Asian airlines and other inbound tourism from other countries.

- The lack of Airbridges at Gold Coast airport are a current issue, but the budget airlines refuse to pay for them and claim Airbridges slow down their turnaround times.

- The ability to fly direct from the Gold Coast airport to a lot more international destinations. Currently there are very limited options for direct international destinations.

- Provision of a car fly under, under the Surfers Paradise sign on the Esplanade.

- An explicit focus on building a healthier and fitter Gold Coast in the lead-up to the Commonwealth Games. There are a handful of monumental public health projects and initiatives laying in wait on desks pending the adequate support they require from government and Local Council.

- Strategic development of sustainable funding schemes in health and medical research to leverage the opportunities being presented by the new Gold Coast Hospital and Griffith University.

- The 2018 Commonwealth Games will be the largest international sporting event staged in Australia for a decade, with more than 6500 athletes and officials from 71 Commonwealth nations taking part.

- The 2018 Commonwealth Games to be held on the Gold Coast offers huge potential for development and employment. The Commonwealth Games is one of the largest elite multi-sport events in the world. Hosting the Commonwealth Games is the equivalent of staging 15 world championships simultaneously.

- Setting up food centres across the Gold Coast to teach basic cooking skills, in order to improve the community’s health and well-being, and save on money spent on problems related to poor eating habits.
Completion of the light rail link which is currently under construction and the extension of the light rail to The Spit, Bundall, Robina, Burleigh, the airport, Coolangatta, and Parkwood and Helensvale to connect with the railway to Brisbane. Mayor Tom Tate affirmed the importance of these issues in the Gold Coast Bulletin on 18 May 2013.

Falling property price. The Gold Coast Bulletin reported on 18 May 2013, “Beachside homes had dropped 60 percent in four years. .... Gold Coast suburbs took out four of the top five spots in the list of (Australia’s) worst performing suburbs with the average price of a two-bedroom home in one part of Mermaid Beach falling 65 percent since 2009.”

Provision of critical infrastructure the Gold Coast’s western suburbs. In the Gold Coast Bulletin on May 19, 2013, leading demographer Bernard Salt tipped the Gold Coast’s western suburbs will grow faster than critical infrastructure can be provided. “The city’s western edge is set to follow historical trends in Melbourne and Sydney and be left lingering when it comes to infrastructure until its population grows. “The city is doing it tough at the moment and people are spreading around along a western front,” he said. “The population there is not the glamorous high-rise based baby booms but more focused on service workers and commuters. The reality is infrastructure and spending follows populations and right now there is a low critical mass of people.”

Australian Bureau of Statistics figures show the Coast is developing its own “homegrown” western suburbs with Nerang, Pacific Pines and Oxenford-Maudsland outstripping other suburbs in terms of growth and being among the 10 fastest-growing in the city.

“The discovery of the nation’s largest illegal drug lab in the Gold Coast Hinterland two years ago helped propel Queensland to the dubious title of Australia’s drug lab capital,” Jessica Elder reported in the Gold Coat Bulletin on 21 May 2013. “But drug labs were the standout, with 379 of the country’s 809 illegal labs found in Queensland, the most significant one being in the Currumbin Valley where $60 million worth of chemicals were found.”

In the lead up to the 2013 election Coalition MPs on the Gold Coast slammed the Federal Government for ignoring the city in the May 2013 Budget, but could not promise they would spend any more locally should they win government in September according to a story in the Gold Coast Bulletin (16 May 2013).

“The Gold Coast, traditionally a conservative stronghold, barely rated a mention in what was expected to be Treasurer Wayne Swan’s final budget.”

“Tourism, the Commonwealth Games and the M1 missed out, but Gold Coast MPs have not committed to any big projects while staring down the barrel of inheriting an $18 billion deficit.

The Liberal National Party holds the electorates of Moncrieff, Fadden and McPherson with 61 percent, 58 per cent and 53 percent of the vote respectively.

“Moncrieff MP Steve Ciobo said he wanted the Coalition to commit $100 million at least to the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, make improvements to the Gold Coast Airport, link the light rail to the heavy rail and roll back taxes and red tape on the tourism industry.”

“Opposition spokesman for defence science, technology and personnel, and Fadden MP Stuart Robert, would not be drawn on whether there would be any money in a Coalition budget for major infrastructure projects on the Gold Coast.”

“McPherson MP Karen Andrews said she could not say categorically if there would be any money available for major projects on the Gold Coast after the election.”

“She said there would not be any funding for the city’s wish lists and tough decisions would have to be made.”

“Ms Andrews said she had already spoken to Opposition spokesman for infrastructure and transport, Warren Truss, about upgrades to the M1.”

“We will have to find alternative solutions where there is no money to fund projects,” she said.

“Labor MP for Richmond, Justine Elliot, said the Coalition had a history of ignoring her electorate in the Tweed.

“We see neglect and failure with the North Coast Nationals MPs unwilling or unable to support locals, for example, by failing to deliver the promised high school at Pottsville; by failing to deliver on the promise of more police and by failing to deliver the promised homeless shelter at Tweed,” she said.
“Jobs will be lost and valuable research left unfinished after the Federal Government moved to shut down the city’s National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility as part of its brutal Budget,” the Gold Coast Bulletin reported on 16 May 2013.

“Industry experts have expressed alarm at the Gillard Government’s decision to end funding for the Griffith University facility and developing the capability in Australia to manage the future risks from climate change.”

“Deputy vice chancellor for Griffith University, Professor Ned Pankhurst, said the Government had shut the facility "with the job half done."

“The next phase was policy and practice to take to the Commonwealth Government. That is the critical thing,” he said.

“They’ve ended it with the job half done. There is a high likelihood this will end with job cuts.”

In April, Ms Gillard said the Federal Government “has invested heavily in the future education of Australia’s children.”

Facility chairman, Ian Carruthers said: “But the future of those same children will be put at risk if we fail today to invest in understanding how to cope with the huge challenges that climate change carries for Australia.”

“Commendably, the Government is investing hundreds of millions of dollars in building the capability of developing countries to cope with extreme weather events from climate change”, he said.

“The same level of priority needs to be put on protecting Australia …"
Our strong education policy

As well as being the founder of the 21st Century Australia Party, I Jamie McIntyre, am a successful educator and I have dedicated the past 15 years of my life to creating, developing and implementing a modern day 21st Century Education System, which has now reached over 550,000 people from 17 different countries.

This experience has provided me with great insight into seeing the power of the right education to transform people’s lives. This is why I believe that in order to create greater prosperity and abundance for all Australians, a modern day 21st Century Education is essential!

The Gold Coast could utilise a new, modern day, 21st Century Education System, combined with new technologies, to deliver an unprecedented education model for the region. This can become the envy of the rest of Australia and other countries and an exemplary system to model. I also believe we should attract more students to the region.

This is one of the reasons I committed to entering politics and founding the 21st Century Australia Party and movement; to progress the transformation of our outdated 19th Century designed education system and move it into the 21st Century.

We also need health education taught at schools to prevent many of the health issues created from poor diet and lack of exercise. Increased commitment to sports also assists in better exercise regimes, and good physical and mental habits for our youth.

For the last 15 years I have travelled around Australia, both city and country, as an educator and author speaking to Australians and encouraging them to develop a real life modern day 21st Century Education, one I believe that we all need to excel and prosper in today’s rapidly changing world and one we all should have received at school but didn’t.

Over 550,000 people from over 17 different countries have been inspired by the teachings of a 21st Century Education and the large majority of them being the most passionate and committed Australians we have.
This has enabled me to not only learn a lot about what Australians want, but to gain a tremendous insight into the human potential we all have to do better. I have also learnt what is possible to achieve when we combine a directed mind, the right mindset and psychology and access to common sense, intelligent, practical and innovative strategies modeled from those who have produced results - not just theory - and how it can transform peoples finances and ultimately their life.

Collectively this can transform an entire country as well, if such an education and a supportive environment was to be made available to more Australians. I have seen people time and time again through the power of the right education, environment and mentorship achieve so much more then they ever thought possible.

Many of these individuals in Australia in particular have gone on to successful careers. Many have started businesses and employed fellow Australians or become successful investors and provided funding for companies and or houses for Australians to live in. Their success has been my reward. They have increased their efficiencies and productivity, contributed more to society by adding value, have become more fulfilled in life and have become more ideal citizens, with both healthier and more prosperous futures.

A wise man once said, “The first step to creating change is ‘awareness.” It is the correct education, mentorship and environment that not only creates the awareness to change but to support the implementation of change to live a more prosperous and abundant fulfilled future.

Not only does this work with individuals, companies and organisations but it can transform an entire nation if made readily available.

It is my vision and that of 21st Century Australia’s Political Party to assist in the transformation of Australia into a more abundant and more prosperous nation for every single Australian. To bring it truly into the 21st Century by providing an economically successful environment that encourages, inspires and supports all Australians to perform at higher levels and add even more value to our society and great country.

I firmly believe in compassionate capitalism and having a strong social conscience. With passion, dedication and awareness combined with strong leadership that has vision, strength and courage to create change, Australia can and will achieve its full potential as the best nation on earth and become a world leader in many fields and endeavours.

**We truly are a blessed and lucky country.**

However we can’t take what we have for granted and if change isn’t brought in now we won’t remain the ‘lucky country’. When we talk of political change we see that political parties, starting up before elections, are often a dime a dozen and they rarely go on to achieve much in the way of change or choice.
What sets 21st Century Australia Party apart?

For one we take this as a lifetime challenge; the beginning of a 10-20 year and beyond project to help Australia achieve its full potential. 21st Century Australia Party (21CA) is more than just another political party.

It is a movement about changing our entire 19th Century, heavily out-dated, industrialisation era, education system and redesigning it into a modern day, 21st Century, Education System. It is a movement also about changing our heavily out-dated 19th Century political system; a movement to redesign and bring our political system into the 21st Century to return the power to the hands of many disillusioned voters.

It’s time to let go of our past and move into a new future.

Take the lessons from our past and use this wisdom to create a better future.

By changing our education and political systems for the better we will ensure Australia achieves its full potential and an outcome that will benefit every single Australian. This is at a time when Australians are frustrated, even annoyed and dismayed at our current political system with many calling it a ‘political circus’.

This is at a time when our political system is so flawed it can be easily hijacked by minority groups with their own greedy self-interest ahead of the best interest of our nation. Such selfish interests are costing us dearly. This is at a time when our political system is so flawed it requires compulsory voting to get Australians to vote, generally for one of two major political parties, whether Australians particularly like either party leader or not despite being a so-called democracy.

This is at a time when our political system is so flawed our elected Prime Minister Kevin Rudd was removed by “faceless union men” who then instilled a leader that the clear majority of Australians did not choose nor want. This system where a Prime Minister can’t be “recalled” despite the large majority of voters being dissatisfied with her performance and wanting her to resign, but no such option is available until an election is due; a political system whereby voters are denied the right to vote on major policy directly, (and this is

“Australia has no idea how prosperous and abundant it can become with proper leadership”

Jamie McIntyre
despite the voting technology systems being available to allow accurate online voting which could prevent politicians voting against our wishes).

A political system whereby a political leader can say no to a carbon tax to win votes but when in office lie and then introduce a carbon tax; a segregated system instead of one national framework that could deliver better services for a fraction of the costs and quickly save billions; a state political system that creates replication and duplication of health, education, transport and infrastructure across six states and 2 territories designed more than two hundred years ago.

A system that allows politicians with little or no business, financial or executive management experience (33 of the 226 MPs in Parliament have come straight from business) to manipulate $360 billion of taxpayers money each year, spending taxpayers hard earned dollars, for the most part, without checks and balances, (often in local electorates just to win votes), quickly run up hundreds of billions in debt and then justify it by saying we aren’t as bad as the “basket case” European economies.

An independent board for good reason sets interest rates, however we don’t insist on Government spending being put in the hands of an independent board, with the best and brightest business and finance brains to oversee it, in order to protect tax payers’ money. Therefore by default we allow this money at times to be abused and exploited for self-interested political purposes.

We have a system that enables corrupt unions to operate above the law and extort billions of dollars off Australian tax payers. Also by inflating construction prices and arranging illegal kickbacks these corrupt unions gain company funds unethically. Such funds are used to place party members in power, all the way to the top of Government. This effectively steals our democracy and abuses our political system; a system when it was created, failed to see how corrupt unions could one day learn how to manipulate it to serve their self-interested agendas and corrupt our democracy from within. A system that despite being a so-called democracy within a successful capitalistic society allows extreme socialistic and communistic thinkers, even in Government, to attack the wealth creators of this country thus creating false class warfare in order to manipulate desperately needed votes.

We live with a system that allows a government that seemingly detests and attacks the business community; despite the businesses, small and large, within this community being the creators of wealth and providers of employment for Australians to share in; a government that stifles and obstructs the very progress of our great nation at every possible turn to shore up their own selfish agendas.

We need to change the 19th Century education system and it isn’t enough to simply become a teacher or even to start a school. Both can make a difference however on their own aren’t enough. We must change the entire curriculum and entire education system to be effective long-term; keep what works and start fresh with everything else.

Similarly just changing bits and pieces of the current out-dated 19th Century political system, isn’t good enough either. We must change the entire system to create sustainable long-term change.

The 21st Century Australia Political Party is about changing our out-dated political and educational systems; to bring Australia truly into the 21st Century; to create more prosperity and abundance within our great nation for all to share in.

It’s about the change so many Australians have been hoping for. Many have thought that it may never happen or have felt powerless to know exactly how to create such a change. With the advent of social media and new technologies a change is possible for voters to unite against our decaying, corrupted and out-dated political system. Those who have the most to lose will attempt to stop this change as it erodes their self-interested power base.

Is it not a change worth fighting for?

If enough Australians are willing to take a united stand, we will return the power to voters. Voters will get to vote on major policy, voters will get to recall poorly performing Prime Ministers and voters will have a legitimate third party choice. No longer will a politician be able to lie to the electorate and go against the majority of voters wishes, as voters will decide on major policy - not party aligned politicians.

The 21st Century Australia Party will remove government spending from the hands of politicians and have them safe guarded by an independent board ensuring tax payers hard work and taxes are protected and wastage eliminated saving billions per month. With such savings the government can deliver increased services and maintain a budget thus creating a surplus and paying back the $260 billion in debt our current government has created.
In education and awareness lies the very solution to all of our problems. True education, not just academia, is the key to prosperity.

• We will create from the ground up a new, modern day, 21st Century Education System for our schools.

• We will return fiscal responsibility to Government, so that never again can governments break the social contract that says: ‘Australians are happy to work hard and pay taxes, provided the Government uses such taxes efficiently and effectively and does not waste such money. The government must, treat taxes as if they were coming from their own back pocket and not waste them like a drunken sailor.’

• We will see corrupt unions stopped from taking advantage of Australian workers and misleading workers into believing that ‘business is the enemy’. We believe increased business profits are the key to pay rises and increased employment, as it is a win-win situation and not a war against a made up enemy.

• We will ensure businesses proactively look after their workers’ needs as their employees are their greatest asset. We will see unions having to pay tax and brought under the same corporations law as companies are. This will ensure that they are treated equally and fairly under the law and held to account if found to be involved in misconduct. Honest union officials will have nothing to fear and would welcome such inquiries; whereas the guilty ones will no doubt oppose such change.

• We will see the removal of senseless red tape, over-regulation and bureaucracy that stifles, impedes and prevents business achieving increased profits and thus benefiting all Australians.

• We will ensure Australian workers’ rights are always protected and they get to benefit from the increase in Australian corporate wealth by encouraging better training and willingness to add more value to employers, and in return share in the benefits of wealth creation.

• We will focus on wealth creation for all Australians willing to work hard and apply themselves as opposed to the flawed ideologies of wealth distribution. We will learn to appreciate the contribution that our most successful entrepreneurs make to our country and encourage their continued success and provide the economy and environment for them to do so whilst equally recognising the contribution made by workers.

• We will learn how to combine environmental interests for a sustainable future with industry and economic interests and focus on win-wins, and not wage war against opposing views. We want a healthy environment and a healthy economy.

• We will ask questions of our current debt-based monetary system and seek greater transparency and debate on future models that can achieve greater sustainability. We will reform our overly complex and ineffective tax systems and prove lower taxes can increase productivity and increase the total tax income.

• We will learn from our indigenous culture about sustainability and how we can apply those lessons to our civilisation, and how we can properly recognise and value indigenous contributions to our society.

• We will focus on reducing crime, increasing medical access, medical screening and technology in rural areas, increasing correlation between tertiary education and employment, multiculturalism and research and innovation.
• **We will** support and encourage migrants to adapt to the Australian culture and to recognise the many benefits migrants have brought to this country, and to utilise migrants to fill our labour supply shortfalls when Australian workers can’t meet them.

• **We will** lower taxes and increase services by being innovative, intelligent, strategic and by adopting private sector mentalities in Government Departments and organisations to boost productivity and efficiencies.

• **We will** encourage Australians to save for their retirement and to become self-sufficient and to take active responsibility for their life and for governments to leave superannuation alone.

• **We will** give low income earners a help-up by the removal of taxes for earners below $22,500 pa and the removal of contribution tax on superannuation for low income earners.

• **We will** use more incentives, not more welfare to assist low income earners to empower themselves to enjoy a better life by providing a hand up not a hand out.

• **We will** ensure those who can’t look after themselves, the most vulnerable in our communities are looked after in a way a compassionate society should.

• **We will** encourage the wealthiest Australians to give more to charity and contribute even more to Australia by acknowledging and commending the largest tax payers for their valued contributions and assist them in even greater success and contribution.

• **We will** encourage new economic zones to stimulate growth.

• **We will** listen to what Australians want and ensure all Australians have a voice and say in how to make this great country even greater.

• **We will** recognise the contribution of the elderly and tap into their wisdom and better support them in their retirement.

• **We will** encourage engaged, committed and passionate voters who feel they can influence policy.

• **We will** have voter-initiated policies.

• **We will** support regional Australia and recognise its valuable contribution to our nation and ensure regional Australia benefits equally from the increased abundance of our nation.

• **We will** smartly invest in key infrastructure ahead of time, not behind time, in large nation building projects.

• **We will** encourage the development of Northern Australia and encourage contributions from our most successful entrepreneurs, and not see them as the enemy.

• **We will** unite Australians of all backgrounds to work together to make a 21st Century Australia vision a reality.

• **We will** with your help, change this nation. Your country needs you. Will you take a stand?

Jamie McIntyre
Founder of the 21st Century Australia Party
We are more than just the launch of a new political party!

The 21st Century Australia Party is about a new movement to transform Australia’s education and political systems and provide greater abundance and prosperity for all Australians.

The 21st Century Australia Party is about returning true democracy to this country and returning the power back to the voters where it belongs.

Our party is about **change**
Our party is about **results**
Our party is about providing each and every one of us with a **legitimate third party choice**

The 21st Century Australia Party is for those who don’t want to vote Gillard or Abbott at the next election, but would like to vote for something that stands for something more than the same old.

Our party is about providing common sense results, by utilising intelligent and strategic solutions to challenges our country and region faces.

Our party is about giving you a say in the future direction of this country and the region of the Gold Coast.

We want to make it clear we are serious about change and serious about delivering key solutions for the future running of this great country.
GOLD COAST

POLICY INFORMATION FOR THE GOLD COAST REGION

OUR 10 KEY STRATEGIES
Our 10 Key Strategies
For the Gold Coast Electorates Summarised

1. Tourism

- Tourism is the key driver in the local economy of Gold Coast City, contributing almost one dollar in every five generated within the city, according to BusinessGC.
- Visitors to Gold Coast City spend on average $4 billion annually and the city’s tourism sector employs almost 18,500 people. This appropriately reflects the Gold Coast’s position as Australia’s premier tourist destination, which attracts more than 10 million overnight and day trip visitors each year.
- Better marketing of the Gold Coast region and its attractions will lead to more industry, more jobs for the region, increased revenue and increased prosperity.
- On the Gold Coast there are at least three tourism bodies who are all prepared to accept the credit for tourism numbers and rubbery figures to support their claims of attracting tourists.
- In mid-2012 Federal Tourism Minister Martin Ferguson vowed to lure more tourists to regional holiday destinations. He plans to shift Tourism Australia’s (TA) advertising focus away from metropolitan cities to regional Queensland centres.
- “We want get the tourists out of the cities and into regional holiday hubs like the Gold Coast,” he told business leaders at a Queensland Tourism Industry Council event in Brisbane.
- Surely we need a recognizable national tourism strategy that is communicated down to all levels of tourism and one that provides real benefits to tourism operators with a flow on effect for all Australians?
- The 2018 Commonwealth Games to be held on the Gold Coast offers major development and employment opportunities.

2. Health

- Strategic development of sustainable funding schemes in health and medical research to leverage the opportunities being presented by the new Gold Coast Hospital and Griffith University.
- An explicit focus on building a healthier and fitter Gold Coast in the lead-up to the Commonwealth Games. There are a handful of monumental public health projects and initiatives laying in wait on desks pending the adequate support they require from government and Local Council.
- Doctor shortages is one of the key issues facing regional Australia. We also need health education taught at schools to prevent many of the health issues created from poor diet and lack of exercise.
- The setting up of food centres across the Gold Coast to teach basic cooking skills, in order to improve the community’s health and well-being, and save on money spent on problems related to poor eating habits, has been identified as a major local issue.
3. Cruise Ship Terminal

- We strongly support the creation of infrastructure to create the Cruise Ship Capital of Australia on the Gold Coast, just like Miami is in the United States.
- Can provide long-term benefits, including job creation during construction. The long-term benefits of a cruise terminal and the flow on effect can bring in millions of dollars every year in new tourist revenue.
- The economic impact would be substantial, with tourists wanting to explore the destination, taste the food and get the feel of the city.

4. Transport

- As part of our platform of investing in key infrastructure and large nation building projects ahead of time, we will address the major issue of our road system. Completion of the Pacific Highway is a priority!
- Directly related to our road system is the pressing need for a High Speed Rail system that would provide fast and cost effective transportation from city centre to city centre without the need for the hassles of waiting at airports and commuting to airports.
- A High Speed Rail system could take thousands of cars and trucks off our roads while simultaneously reducing road accidents.
- At present, despite a massive cost of $2.5 billion, the light rail system under construction on the Gold Coast does not connect to existing heavy rail nor to the Gold Coast Airport. It starts in Broadbeach and runs to Griffith University via Surfers Paradise and Southport.
- The builders of the project have reported that they would happily build extensions to the Gold Coast Airport and to Helensvale Railway Station for no cost to the Government or local council. In return they have asked for a 20-year contract to run it.
- This is an innovative way to fund badly needed infrastructure, such as a fast train network.
- We also support the extension of the light rail system to other areas.

• Our health platform includes a dramatic overhaul of the health industry to obtain dramatic gains through innovation and technology, without requiring one extra cent of revenue to deliver improved health services.

• We support the setting up of an international brain centre on the Gold Coast, which was announced on May 20, 2013 in the Gold Coast Bulletin. “Plans are under way to establish a multi-million dollar Neuroscience Centre of Excellence at Southport, a move that will create 3000 jobs in the proposed CBD and link the region with the Mayo Clinic and the Rockefeller Research Centre. The centre will work with the National Disability Insurance Scheme and the National Injury Insurance Scheme. A second arm of the centre would be a palliative care unit to help people who have suffered strokes or have had acute brain injuries and would be a partnership with St Vincent’s Hospital.
5. Employment, Job Security and Growth

- The Gold Coast is ideally situated to make it perfectly feasible as both a high technology centre of excellence as well as an ideal cruise ship terminal with huge flow on benefits from both of these proposals.

- The Gold Coast provides rental and leasing advantages for an entrepreneurial, high technology centre of excellence, combined with small city life style and commuting advantages.

- The 2018 Commonwealth Games to be held on the Gold Coast offers major short-term employment opportunities. Let’s convert those opportunities to long-term employment opportunities!

- The influx of New Zealanders to the Gold Coast raises fears of homelessness, crime and health issues, particularly in the Logan area.

- Up to 70 percent of new enrollments at larger Coast schools, such as Upper Coomera State College and Keebra Park, identify themselves as New Zealanders or Maori and Polynesian.

- Research being gathered by welfare workers is tracking a downside, with some New Zealand children arriving at school without food and lacking uniforms or resources. Their unemployed parents, who cannot obtain welfare benefits, are seeking emergency funding from shelters to get a plane ticket home.

- People living on the Gold Coast aged over 65 is expected to increase to 20.2% of the population by 2031, a large increase over the 13.9% figure for 2006.

- For the same time period people living on the Gold Coast aged 0-24 is expected to decrease to 29% of the population by 2031, a significant decrease from the 31.9% figure for 2006.

- The median age of Gold Coast City Council’s population is projected to increase by 3.7 years from a median age of 37.6 years in 2006 to a median age of 41.3 years in 2031. (Population and Dwelling Profile, Gold Coast City Council, Office of Economic and Statistical Research, Queensland Treasury and Trade, April 2012.)

6. Welfare Issues on the Gold Coast

- The Gold Coast is widely perceived as a ‘dole bludgers paradise’ with welfare recipients spending their days surfing.

- A recent survey found 66 percent of Australians said that they thought the welfare system makes people unwilling to look after themselves. This was even true of the young who had the highest rates of unemployment. Over half of the 14-17 year olds surveyed said unemployment was due to “personal unwillingess to work”.

7. Electricity Prices

- Electricity prices and the privatisation of electricity are something of a political football in Australia.

- Electricity prices are of growing concern to most Australians and especially to people in the Gold Coast electorate.

- Choice consumer group surveyed 67,000 Queenslanders and revealed Hinterland locals spend $3516 on average annually -- more than double the average in other Gold Coast suburbs.

- Central Gold Coast locals pay $2630 on average, residents in the Coomera area pay about $2032 and Coolangatta locals just $1583.
8. Education

• Falling education standards are both a local and national concern. Just ask any teacher about their student’s verbal and literacy skills!

• We believe investing in education and people is a top priority for long-term returns across the whole economy. Better education will translate to jobs and opportunities.

• Our platform for education is based on a modern day 21st century education curriculum to replace our current 19th century industrialisation system. One that is based on practical real life education with financial education as a necessity. This will achieve a world leading education model without needing one extra cent of revenue. It will ensure the pay quality of teachers is increased due to their significant importance in society with pay rise funded from efficiency gains.

• We believe in a new, modern day 21st century education curriculum to replace our current 19th Century industrial era education system; One based on practical real life education with financial education as a necessity.

• A modern day 21st century education system can be delivered for no extra cost than the education budget.

9. De-urbanisation and Decentralisation of Australia

• Strong population growth is a position advocated by many business interests. A Productivity Commission, Economic Implications of an Ageing Australia, Research Report, predicts an increase in population up to 42.5 million people by 2056, and our population to reach between up to 62.2 million by 2101. (At the time of writing Australia’s population had just passed 23 million.)

• Significant progress toward a sustainable physical economy in Australia requires more than just managing our future levels of population. It will also require the simultaneous management of infrastructure, lifestyle, energy, international trade, inbound tourism and the technology incorporated in key machines and processes.

• To boost instant prosperity in the greater Gold Coast region we would look at ways to incentivise workers, industries and families to relocate to regional areas through grants incentives and supportive environments in order to prosper while creating a win-win for all Australians.

• By providing and delivering improved services and infrastructure in regional Australia we can entice more people to regional areas.

10. Gold Coast Crime Levels

• Many people believe the underlying aspects of crime rates - such as economic factors - are not being addressed and if they continue to be ignored crime rates will not change.

• Crime is at the top of the list of major social ills. However, a lot of criminologists and sociologists don’t relate economic incentives to a rise in crime.

• Criminologists say organised crime and a rampant drug trade are behind a spate of shootings and serious violent crimes on Queensland’s Gold Coast.

• “Police officers are routinely disrespected, sworn at, made fun of, shoved, taunted and generally treated like garbage by swarms of drunken youths, in Surfers Paradise, especially on Saturday nights,” Matt Condon wrote recently in the Courier Mail. “These are the surface antics. The more serious are being played out night after night. Innocent employees in service stations, pubs, and all-night grocery stores being terrorised - drugs, handguns, knives, binge drinking.

• “Whatever the solution, it is imperative something be done immediately. That may mean the urgent installation of more police, engagement with the community, a realistic debate on the city’s present and future direction and a thorough and honest examination of the modern Gold Coast’s demographics in relation to the adequacy and accurate redistribution of police, council and government services.

• Increased police effectiveness is surely the most effective way of reducing crime!
Potential Solutions
The 15 Point Plan to Dramatically Improve Australia

1. Wastage in all three levels of government needs to be reduced to free up cash to improve current services.

For instance the $16 billion the Government wasted on Building the Education Revolution (BER) school program, (not to mention the insulation fiasco), could have been put into infrastructure, or least into completing the Brisbane to Melbourne Freeways. Unfortunately the Government squandered that opportunity.

In 2010 the federal government canned its botched $2.45 billion home insulation scheme after the government found that the arrangements and timeframe for the modified scheme would not ensure the highest safety standards.

The government was also forced to assess the incidence of alleged fraud of the scheme. Defence spending is another area where governments of both persuasions have wasted billions on overpriced and sometimes worthless equipment.

2. The use of innovation largely from technology to improve health and education.

Our health platform includes a dramatic overhaul of the health industry to obtain dramatic gains through innovation and technology, without requiring one extra cent of revenue to deliver improved health services.

3. More funding is urgently required for preventative health care and health education including teaching health education in schools.

In recent times slashing health funding has been a convenient way of balancing budgets.

Federal Labor and state Coalition governments have both promised funding to cut waiting lists. The National Health Reform Agreement, which took effect from July 1, 2013, was meant to “end the blame game”. Instead, the governments are feuding over funding as the public suffers cuts to hospital staff, beds and services and waiting lists grow.

Instead of governments meeting each other halfway, they have elevated their politically driven goal of surpluses above the public interest in covering the shortfall hospitals face. The public has also been denied the right to know the full facts about public funding and the hospital activities that help determine it.
More use of 457 visas to assist in increasing the number of health care workers and old age carers.

Researchers claim 457 visas, the program Australian employers most commonly use to sponsor specialised skilled workers from overseas temporarily, play an essential role in the resources sector by filling highly-skilled positions that cannot be met locally. In fact, migrant workers played a significant role in helping major resource projects get off the ground, the study found. And why not more use of 457 visas to assist in increasing the number of health care workers and old age carers?

Voters should have a greater influence on leading policy to better serve voters’ interest.

By being able to vote direct on major policy via online would mean compulsory voting would no longer be required to get a majority of voters to vote.

Why not have elections or referendums based on policies, not parties. Do we agree with all the policies of our preferred party? Of course not.

With the software available today fraudulent voting could be prevented; this can be introduced in a cost effective manner.

But we are forced to vote for a party even though we might only agree with some of their policies. When elected they claim a mandate to implement all their policies, even though we didn’t give them such a mandate.

For example, they say their policy is, “no to carbon tax”. Yet after being elected they implement a carbon tax, and use taxpayer’s money to run a media campaign asking us to say yes to a carbon tax. Didn’t the majority already say “no”? Why even run a media campaign asking us to say yes, when we don’t actually get a choice again to say yes or no?

National Broadband Network (NBN) savings to have 50% injected into regional areas and broadband rolled out sooner - an extra $7.5 billion dollars for regional Australia.

The current $42 billion NBN is overpriced (the initial estimated cost has had considerable cost blowouts and faces even more blowouts) and is a poor return on taxpayer’s money. Taxpayers will be asked to pay twice for it - with our taxes first, then again every month to use it.

The government has already projected in its NBN plans that most households will only take up the packages offering 25% of its full speed. Most people won’t pay the extra because that speed is more than enough. A NBN that covers a large majority of the population for a fraction of the cost would save $15 billion and still enable faster broadband for regional Australia.

The debate isn’t about whether we need a NBN, that’s a given. The debate is we need one sooner and for better value for money, which we can have. Further, the debate should also be about how can governments spend $42 billion (and counting) of our money without a simple cost analysis or any control over such spending. With just half the savings of the $15 billion being $7.5 billion injected into rural Australia (and broadband rolled out sooner) we could make huge improvements to critical services such as health care and better rural roads.
A sovereign wealth fund can assist in lowering of the Australia dollar to assist manufacturers and tourism industries.

Myself and others have lobbied to have a sovereign wealth fund implemented for years. It is critical to preserve Australia’s wealth after the mining boom and to ensure our government doesn’t waste the boom years generating large mining revenues.

All proceeds from the mining tax should go to such a fund with the goal of building a sovereign wealth fund comparable to those of Norway and Dubai.

Such a fund also could be used to help stabilize and lower our currency by shifting some of our wealth into overseas markets to diversify and expand Australia’s sovereign wealth and better balance global inflows.

A better financially managed government will lead to more revenue being available for regional Australia.

Spending should be removed from the hands of politicians and placed in the hands of an independent oversight committee run by suitably qualified people, just as the Reserve Bank Board is independent from the Treasurer.

Just as interest rates are set by an independent board and not by the Government, Australia needs an independent board to oversee government spending.

Why leave something as important as Government spending in the hands of elected politicians and current governments?

The money wasted on defence spending and unsuitable defence equipment is a good example. Hundreds of millions of dollars have been wasted.

In a recent survey by global consultants McKinsey, the US and Australia came at the bottom of a list of 33 countries ranked according to how efficiently they spent their defence budgets in their analysis. The McKinsey study says the US and Australia are the world’s worst performing countries with regard to “equipment output for every dollar spent”.

Other examples of poor financial management by the federal government include the Building the Education Revolution (BER) scheme and the disastrous insulation scheme.

Julia Gillard’s critics claim she was responsible for overseeing the spending of $16.2 billion on the BER, including a $1.7 billion blowout and up to $8 billion in waste through mismanagement, gouging and state government substitution.

Critics of the BER program claim huge cost overruns have been committed and covered up. As a nation, Australia eventually outlaid upwards of $16 billion of funding to get maybe as little as $10 billion worth of projects on a value-for-money basis.

Two of the more important reasons the BER program produced such blowouts is that the commonwealth is not good at overseeing state procurement and states and territories have vastly different procurement practices and planning expertise on the ground.

We could be $50 billion p.a. better off without state governments!

The unification (or amalgamation) of Commonwealth, State and Territory governments to achieve a strong national government could lead to strengthened local governments, according to Dr Mark Drummond, Co-convenor of Beyond Federation who proposes a two-tier government structure comprising national and local governments, but no State and Territory governments.

Unification could provide financial benefits of around $20 billion per annum in the public sector, $40 billion per annum in the private sector, and at least $50 billion (or about five percent of GDP) across the Australian economy as a whole (in 2009 dollar terms).

Unification could provide improved democracy and government at national and local levels.
With no State or Territory governments we could have a seamless national economy, a seamless national approach to the environment, a national education system, a national health system, a single set of laws for the whole of Australia as part of a national system of law, order and safety, with regional administration and cooperation not constrained by State and Territory borders.

Dr Drummond’s plan would see local government strengthened by constitutional recognition, functional empowerment and increased funding from the Commonwealth government with the abolition of State and Territory taxes.

Numerous Commonwealth Parliamentarians support the abolition of State governments or related reforms.

Dr Drummond suggests that intelligent government structure reforms have the potential to significantly enhance Australia’s financial and economic strength, and hence provide the financial capacity to achieve significantly improved social and environmental outcomes as well.

Numerous polls in both city and rural areas show strong support of around 75 percent for the abolition of state governments and similar polling results when respondents were asked if Australia was over-governed.

Even with just two levels of government there is the opportunity to vastly improve the operations of councils.

In a bold move former Victorian premier Jeff Kennett sacked all of his state’s 1600 elected councillors and replaced them with handpicked commissioners within months during 1993-4.

This dramatic program of forced amalgamations saw the number of councils slashed from 210 to 78, now 79.

Victoria made the reform overnight, installing commissioners who led councils until the amalgamation process was finalised three years later.

Kennett’s controversial forced amalgamations also demanded council rates be cut by 20 percent and rate rises capped and insisted that at least 50 percent of council services go out to tender.

The Australian Services Union estimates 11,000 council jobs were lost by the late 1990s.

The commissioners remained at the helm for two to three years while new boundaries were drawn up and elections were held.

In 2012 while speaking in Perth Mr Kennett said WA should follow a similar path - the sooner the better.

WA has more than 160 local government areas, including 29 within the Perth metropolitan area.

The state government wants that halved and established a voluntary amalgamation program but it was a failure, with only a handful of councils agreeing to merge.

The City of Brisbane provides a good model for council management and operation. The City of Brisbane is the local government area that has jurisdiction over the inner portion of the metropolitan area of Brisbane, Queensland. Unlike Local Government Areas (LGAs) in the other mainland state capitals (Sydney, Melbourne, Perth and Adelaide), which are generally responsible only for the central business districts and inner neighbourhoods of those cities, the City of Brisbane administers a significant portion of the Brisbane metropolitan area.

As such, it has a larger population than any other local government area in Australia. The City of Brisbane was the first Australian LGA to reach a population of more than one million. Its population is roughly equivalent to the populations of Tasmania, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory combined. The Council administers a budget of over $3 billion.

The Brisbane City Council has its power divided between a powerful executive Lord Mayor, a parliamentary-style council of twenty-six councillors representing single-member wards of approximately 23,000 voters, and a Civic Cabinet comprising the Lord Mayor and the chairpersons of the seven standing committees drawn from the membership of Council. Due to the City of Brisbane’s status as the country’s largest LGA, the Lord Mayor is elected by the largest single-member electorate in Australia. The council has seven standing committees: Community Services Committee, Environment and Sustainability Committee, Finance, Public Transport, Roads, TransApex and Traffic, Urban Planning and Economic Development, Water and City Businesses.

The council also owns three business units which are city-owned enterprises managed on commercial lines, Brisbane CityWorks, Brisbane Transport, Brisbane Water.

“It’s not impossible to do but the [problem] is people become defensive,” Jeff Kennett said.
Better marketing of the Gold Coast region and its attractions will lead to more industry, more jobs for the region, increased revenue and increased prosperity.

Boost Tourism With Competent, Responsible Bodies

Tourism is the key driver in the local economy of Gold Coast City, contributing almost one dollar in every five generated within the city, according to BusinessGC.

“Visitors to Gold Coast City spend on average $4 billion annually and the city’s tourism sector employs almost 18,500 people (2006). This appropriately reflects the Gold Coast’s position as Australia’s premier tourist destination, which attracts more than 10 million overnight and day trip visitors each year (2006).

“The city possesses a wide array of natural attractions and a broad range of well developed tourism services and infrastructure, including theme parks, restaurants, wineries, shopping and international golf courses.

“On average the city hosts more than 28,900 visitors every day, 92 per cent of whom come from domestic origins. Visitors from Japan, New Zealand, Asia and China comprise the majority of the remaining 8 percent.”

Australia has a number of tourism bodies from federal level down to local town level, but what measurable and tangible results are they achieving?

Most readers will remember Paul Hogan’s ‘throw a shrimp on the barbie’ tourism commercial which apparently was our most successful marketing promotion for attracting overseas tourists.

We have a had a range of marketing drives aimed at attracting overseas tourists since then, apparently with under-whelming results.

In recent times we had Lara Bingle with the, ‘where the bloody hell are you campaign?’

Any casual observer has to wonder if there is an integrated, coordinated national tourism program in place.

On the Gold Coast there are at least three tourism bodies who are all prepared to accept the credit for tourism numbers and rubbery figures to support their claims of attracting tourists.

Most country towns have a council funded ‘tourism centre’, on the main road near the entrance to the town. However, if you ask a basic question such as where and when is the next race meeting to be held, chances are you will not get an answer.

In mid-2012 Federal Tourism Minister Martin Ferguson vowed to lure more tourists to regional holiday destinations. He plans to shift Tourism Australia’s (TA) advertising focus away from metropolitan cities to regional Queensland centres.

“We want get the tourists out of the cities and into regional holiday hubs like the Gold Coast,” he told business leaders at a Queensland Tourism Industry Council event in Brisbane.

“TA spends the better part of its $130 million a year budget on promoting the whole country to overseas markets, but only $5 million goes towards marketing Australia as a holiday destination for Australians.”

Surely we need a recognizable national tourism strategy that is communicated down to all levels of tourism and one that provides real benefits to tourism operators with a flow on effect for all Australians?

Tourists perceive Australians as unhelpful, unreliable and untrustworthy

While on the topic of tourism it appears a major problem with attracting tourists lies with our attitude toward tourists.

One tourism expert says the world looks upon Australians as unhelpful, unreliable and untrustworthy and holidays here were considered poor quality and bad value for money.

For many potential tourists from overseas, Australia has become a premium brand at a premium price, which means they have become much more attentive to the dollars and cents they’re being asked to part with to come here.

Australia has always been a relatively high-priced destination compared with its competitors in the Asia-Pacific region, but, in the past three years, the explosion in the value of the Australian dollar, which is now worth more than an American dollar, has posed a huge problem.

At around $US1.03 instead of 70 cents or less to the US dollar Australia is one of the most expensive places on earth for locals and visitors alike, driving the locals offshore.

Research indicates that, while Americans see us as carefree and rugged, they don’t think Australians deliver quality or good value. Chinese think we are “stylish and classy”, but not very helpful. Indians feel we are daring but also arrogant. The British see us as “charming and independent”, but untrustworthy.

Tourism researchers claim 80 percent of foreign markets view Australia as “different”, 60 percent had knowledge of the
country, half thought Australia was relevant to them but only 30 percent held Australia in high esteem.

Australian tourism operators don’t want to cut their prices because of the high costs they face, so they must increase the quality of the product, which is where the whole equation breaks down.

Again tourism experts point out that for the money being asked, the quality of the product just isn’t up to it.

Much of the tourism product comes down to what we call service. It appears too many people in the customer service side of tourism are being dragged in off the street without specialist training.

Surely it’s time for action to make the product fit the price tag. Australia it seems still has a long way to go to meet the expectations of overseas tourists.

Additional revenues need to be found, such as a visa tax which can lead to more funding for regional areas.

An example of innovative tax revenue increase that doesn’t disincentivise Australians is our example of a Visa tax. By offering a paid Visa to all potential immigrants including suitably qualified boat people, it would greatly reduce the financial incentive of people smugglers to bring illegal immigrants by boat.

We estimate such a visa fee could raise $15 billion p.a. from the 200,000 immigrants that come to Australia annually, without penalising Australian tax payers or the Australian economy.

Relocating more of Australia’s population into regional areas can lead to greater jobs, greater prosperity, stamp duty incentives and other incentives can be used to attract individuals and families and business to add value to the region.

To boost instant prosperity in regional Australia including the Gold Coast region we would look at ways to incentivise workers, industries and families to relocate to regional areas through grants incentives and supportive environments in order to prosper while creating a win-win for all Australians. By providing and delivering improved services and infrastructure in regional Australia we can entice more people to regional areas.
Running budget surpluses would lead to more funding being available for regional areas.

Our policy is to have spending removed from the hands of politicians and placed in the hands of an independent board. This would ensure tax payers hard work and taxes are protected and wastage is eliminated, saving billions per month.

With such savings government can deliver increased services and maintain a budget, thus creating a surplus and paying back the $250 billion in debt and counting our current government has created. According to Wikepedia the gross Australian federal debt was $244.325 billion as of 31 August 2012.

Bear in mind that budget deficits reported by governments are not the same as government debt levels. Business Spectator (7 May 2013) reported, “The Labor government is expected next week to report a $17 billion revenue write-down in the current financial year.

“Treasurer Wayne Swan is struggling with revenue growth that has failed to live up to Treasury’s optimistic forecasts for this year and next.

“Next week’s federal budget reported that the total write-down in tax collections in the current financial year will total $17 billion, and will rise to more than $20 billion in the next financial year.

“Labor had promised as recently as October 2012 a $2 billion surplus for 2013-14, but the expected revenue write-down could push the deficit to at least $18 billion next year.” The Australian Financial Review reported that revenue write-downs between 2013-14 and 2016 could run between $60 billion and $80 billion.
A supportive business environment will stimulate business success and more job creation.

Starting a business in Australia is difficult because taxes are too high and the cost of employing staff is too high. Add to that the rates of productivity which are too low, the cost of compliance which is too high, an unfriendly business environment, as well as a small, isolated local market.

Then we are taxed for employing people and we pay payroll tax as well. Which means more entrepreneurs will set up business elsewhere, in order to be globally competitive.

Our problems are compounded by high labour costs which in turn have supported high property prices. Australia needs to lower its’ labour costs.

Respected business commentator Robert Gottliebsen wrote in Business Spectator on 30 April 2013, (The Gillard government have embarked on a) “dedicated and vicious campaign against small business, which is the main private employment creating sector of the economy.

“This was done via the Australian tax office which attacked small operators and refused to give many ABN numbers. Thousands of complex but useless regulations were introduced at the same time as the Gillard government promoted union dominated industrial relations laws that were designed for large business and made staff flexibility in small business much tougher. Independent contracting was actively discouraged.”

The Gillard government “decide to be completely remote from business. Treasury took the same view. As a result Canberra had no idea what was happening in the business arena (particularly in mining) and most of the treasury business forecasts were wrong. Worse still, they spent the money that they incorrectly anticipated receiving.”

Borrowing for key infrastructure would be good debt, to build infrastructure ahead of time which is financially intelligent and will improve regional Australia’s infrastructure.

What is preventing such infrastructure spending going ahead that has the potential to benefit our nation so much?

Two things, we believe. Our current greens and union dominated government who are experts at blocking, sabotaging and interfering or delaying anything that may benefit Australia and Australians.

Currently mining companies in numerous remote areas choose to fly their workers from capital cities to their sites for shifts of around three weeks (FI-FO, fly in, fly out) rather than invest in the setting up of infrastructure and amenities for new towns where mining families could live.

Is this a lost opportunity for the establishment of some major, new decentralized towns in Australia?

And why isn’t education, transport, health and infrastructure all federal government responsibility and a singular nationwide system, rather then state based. Are we not one country?
POLICY INFORMATION FOR GOLD COAST REGION

LOCAL GOLD COAST ISSUES
1. Tourism

Better marketing of the Gold Coast region and its attractions will lead to more industry, more jobs for the region, increased revenue and increased prosperity.

The 2018 Commonwealth Games to be held on the Gold Coast offers major development and employment opportunities.

“On average the city hosts more than 28,900 visitors every day, 92 percent of whom come from domestic origins. Visitors from Japan, New Zealand, Asia and China comprise the majority of the remaining 8 percent.”

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2. Health

Health issues in Australia are directly linked to our aging population. The aging of the population is one of the major transformations being experienced by Australia’s population, and is a current focus for the provision of health and disability services, and family and community care.

Strategic development of sustainable funding schemes in health and medical research to leverage the opportunities being presented by the new Gold Coast Hospital and Griffith University has been identified as an important issue for Gold Coast voters.

We need an explicit focus on building a healthier and fitter Gold Coast in the lead-up to the Commonwealth Games. There are a handful of monumental public health projects and initiatives laying in wait on desks pending the adequate support they require from government and Local Council.

Medical expenses

“Medical expenses to jump under budget cuts,” Sue Dunlevy reported in the Gold Coast News on May 15, 2013

“Patients will be slugged with higher medical expenses after the Government moved to axe a tax break for medical expenses, delay Medicare rebate rises and made it harder to qualify for the Medicare safety net in the Budget.

“The measures will save the Government $1.7 billion over four years and will also see the Medical Expenses Tax Offset phased out from July this year.
The tax break was used by more than 802,000 Australians in 2010-11 to claim back $450 million in medical expenses through the tax system.

Those who used it claimed back an average $561 of their out-of-pocket medical expenses, such as the cost of dental braces, unsubsidised medicines and obstetric charges.

The phase-out will save the Government $970 million over four years, but is expected to hit higher income earners the hardest because they are more likely to have larger tax bills against which medical expenses can be offset.

While people with a disability will be able to continue to use this tax break to claim for disability aids until 2019, all other medical expenses will be phased out from July this year.

The cost of visiting a non-bulk billing doctor is also set to rise by 60 from November after the Government announced it would delay by seven months adjusting the Medicare rebate for inflation to save $664.4 million.

Health Minister Tanya Plibersek last night described the delay as ‘modest’ and said because 82 per cent of doctors’ visits were bulk billed most people would be unaffected.

Patients who have hefty out-of-pocket medical expenses will find it harder to qualify for the Extended Medicare Safety Net that refunds 80 per cent of their medical bills.

Patients on a health care card or who receive family tax benefit will be unaffected.

But singles and wealthier families will have to spend more than $2000 out of their own pocket on medical expenses from January 2015 (up from $1221.90) before they can claim back 80 per cent of out-of-pocket costs over this amount.

Australians already have the fifth highest out-of-pocket medical expenses in the world and pay more than $1075 a year on healthcare expenses that are not covered by Medicare or health insurers.

Treasurer Wayne Swan said the axing of the medical expenses tax offset and the delays in the indexation of Medicare benefits were about ‘improving the sustainability of the health budget’.

The Australian Medical Association warned delays in Medicare indexation were likely to push up patient charges.

Hospitals and health services are probably the biggest health issue in Australia

Lack of skilled workers, lack of funding, lack of management, lack of preventive measures, lack of people with basic first aid knowledge, lack of education, long waiting lists for operations and access to health services are all major issues.

When it comes to funding hospitals are something of a political football with both state and federal governments sharing responsibility.

In recent times slashing health funding has been a convenient way of balancing budgets.

Victoria for instance has suffered from federal government cuts, which coincided with the state government slashing $616 million from its last two health budgets over five years.

Patients returning to NSW after hospital treatment interstate report difficulties accessing support services back in NSW. They state that referrals made for follow-up services in Queensland were not acknowledged by NSW and they had to go through another referral process once back in NSW.

Federal Labor and state Coalition governments have both promised funding to cut waiting lists. The National Health Reform Agreement, which took effect from July 1, 2013, was meant to “end the blame game”. Instead, the governments are feuding over funding as the public suffers cuts to hospital staff, beds and services and waiting lists grow.

Instead of governments meeting each other halfway, they have elevated their politically driven goal of surpluses above the public interest in covering the shortfall hospitals face. The public has also been denied the right to know the full facts about public funding and the hospital activities that help determine it.

For all the focus on cuts, however, the bigger picture is that the Commonwealth and state have put much more money into hospitals. Since 2008, the federal share has risen by about $1 billion, with $900 million to come over four years. Victoria has restructured health service budgeting since 2008, but we can directly compare acute health services - which is essentially hospitals. Spending is up by a third in five years, from $7.016 billion in 2008-09 to $9.332 billion in the 2012-13 budget. Budget-to-budget rises were 8.4 per cent in 2009-10 and 10.4 per cent in 2010-11 (a time of rising public impatience with the Labor government), 6.7 per cent in 2011-12 (when the Baillieu government honoured election commitments) and 4.2 per cent this year. Budgets are being tightened as Spring Street
and Canberra struggle for revenue - including GST shortfalls that hit Victoria hard - but health funding is still growing in real terms.

The inability of governments to find enough revenue to cover the relentless increases for health treatments, much of it driven by an ageing population, is the bigger and more serious policy picture that is being lost amid political squabbling.

Federal and state governments are hitting the wall when it comes to meeting demand growth trends.

The priority must be to improve public health through education, early detection and treatment. Unhealthy eating, sedentary lifestyles and weight gain, as well as neglected and ignored health problems, mean millions of people are on track for costly hospital treatments that could be avoided.

Governments are talking about preventive health measures, but these still receive only a tiny fraction of funding, despite the huge returns of a healthier public and healthier budgets. Without a greater long-term focus on moderating demands on hospitals, there will never be enough hospital funding.

One very important issue in our health platform is to ban cigarette sales for those born in the year 2000 onwards to reduce the huge health liabilities smoking causes.

We live in a world in which the mass commercialization of cigarettes in the early 20th century rapidly out paced our understanding of their health consequences.

About 15,500 Australians die every year from smoking-related diseases, more than road accidents, murders, alcohol and other drugs combined. Every year, three foreign tobacco companies make a combined profit of more than $500 million in Australia while leaving the country with a combined social cost of more than $31 billion.

After the government banned cigarette advertising on television and radio; the tobacco industry increased its print media advertising. The government then banned print media ads, so the tobacco industry increased its sponsorship of sporting events. The government then mandated plain packaging, so the tobacco industry hired a battalion of high priced lawyers and took the matter to the High Court and lost.

This relentless tug-of-war persists as 70,000 young people are recruited into the ranks of smokers every year.

To resolve this impasse we would mandate that cigarettes can be sold only to a person over 18, and who was born before 2000. This would gradually phase out cigarettes in Australia by forever prohibiting their sale to the next generation.

This proposal balances the rights of existing smokers and the need to protect children born this century from the pernicious effects of tobacco addiction. When it was raised by a group of oncologists in Singapore in 2010, more than 70 per cent of people surveyed supported the plan, including 60 per cent of smokers.

The proposal would not criminalise smoking; it would solely impose heavy fines on vendors caught selling tobacco to anyone born after 2000. Despite knowing that cigarettes will kill about 50 percent of long-term smokers, we are somehow happy to carve out an exception for tobacco companies.

Ultimately, it is very difficult to come up with a good reason that justifies the premature deaths of 15,500 Australians every year.

It is time for the government to pick up a knife and cut the problem in half. The phase-out proposal ensures that current smokers will be unaffected, while future generations will be protected.

Waiting lists for elective surgery are a major issue

NSW hospitals performed worse than any other state in Australia when it came to elective surgery waiting times, with patients forced to wait a median 50 days.

In Victoria budget cuts continue to decimate the hospital system and blow out elective surgery waiting lists. In early 2013 more than 45,000 were on the waiting list!

In recent times more than 325 beds including intensive care and high dependency beds have been closed and thousands of elective surgery procedures have been cut. Victorian patients are expected to wait for longer than six months for semi-urgent surgery.

Fifty jobs were recently cut at the Royal Children's Hospital and predictions are that another 700 jobs will be lost.

The Victorian regional committee of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons, Dr Robert Stunden, said he believed senior teaching doctors, scrub nurses and theatre technicians were being retrenched or moved into other positions as some hospitals cut elective surgery activity in half.

While urgent surgery would still be done within 30 days, he said people waiting for semi-urgent surgery, including hip and knee replacements, hernia repairs and gall bladder removals, could be
waiting for longer than six months when they should be operated on within three.

“The cutbacks are biting hard … I have never seen morale in any health service in the world like it is in Victoria today and I’ve worked in five countries on four continents,” he said.

State secretary of the Australian Nursing Federation Lisa Fitzpatrick said nurses were concerned hospitals were not filling job vacancies due to the cuts, amounting to “redundancies by stealth” that would affect patient care.

She said many nurses who had completed a graduate year in a public hospital were not being offered ongoing employment, and hundreds of new graduates were unable to secure a position.

In Queensland drunken brawls resulting in horrific facial injuries are forcing the postponement of elective surgery for people with serious medical illnesses such as tumours.

Elective surgery patients in the Brisbane suburb of Logan can expect to add nine months or even more to their waiting time for treatment.

Some patients report waiting more than eight years to see a specialist before then going on the elective surgery list.

**LIFESTYLE**

Lifestyle behaviours such as tobacco smoking, risky alcohol consumption, and obesity are three of the most prominent health risks in modern Australian society.

These three risk factors may affect a person’s ability to work, as well as the ability to participate in other aspects of life such as family and community activities. On a broader scale each of these risks have wider implications for both society and the economy.

Both smoking and obesity are associated with social disadvantage, while excessive alcohol consumption affects society in a number of ways, such as through property damage, road accidents and the need for law enforcement. From an economic point of view, diseases or conditions resulting from these risk factors (e.g. diabetes, some cancers, cardiovascular disease, mental illness, and injury) place demand upon Australia’s health care system. The annual cost to Australia of harm arising from smoking and drinking has been estimated to exceed $31 billion and $15 billion respectively.

**OBESITY**

Obesity is a major contributor to the global burden of chronic disease and disability.

Levels of childhood obesity have been rising for a number of reasons including the fact that children are eating more foods that are high in fat and sugars and spending less time on physical activity.

Overweight and obesity in children is a major health concern. Studies have shown that once children become obese they are more likely to stay obese into adulthood and have an increased risk of developing both short and long-term health conditions, such as Type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular disease.

Obesity not only has significant health and social impacts, but also considerable economic impacts. The total annual cost of obesity for both children and adults in Australia, including health system costs, productivity and carers costs, is estimated to be around $60 billion.

Overweight and obesity pose a major risk to long term health by increasing the risk of chronic illnesses. Estimates put 7.4 million people aged 18 years and over (54% of the adult population) as overweight or obese, an increase from 5.4 million adults (45% of the adult population) in 1995.

**Four suggestions to prevent children becoming overweight or obese:**

1. **Promote healthy eating at home:** keep only ‘everyday’ foods in the cupboard, avoid or limit ‘sometimes’ foods, and talk to your child about health and nutrition. Have three meals and two healthy snacks a day, always have breakfast and make water their ‘everyday’ drink.

2. **Encourage your child to be active, and develop an active family lifestyle:** you don’t have to engage in strenuous physical activity all the time - instead, make being active a fun part of your family’s daily routine. For example, walk to school or sport, kick a football together in the park, or take stairs instead of lifts or escalators. Getting active can be a great way to spend positive family time together!

3. **Limit screen-based activities:** make some family rules that set boundaries on the amount of time spent watching TV or playing computer games. Think about limiting screen time, particularly while eating and during daylight hours when it takes away from outdoors time and active leisure.

4. **More funding for all junior codes of sports** on a national level to encourage more participation in sports.
The shambles of our health system highlights the numbers of levels of government we have.

Why do we need state and territory governments? We have eight in total with all the consequent levels of bureaucracy, to say nothing of the huge numbers of parliamentarians and their staff. They are costly and ineffective.

Why should we carry the massive costs of three layers of Government? Not to mention the extra administrative burdens on business as well as additional taxes and inefficiencies.

Why aren’t health, education, transport and infrastructure all regulated at federal government level with a single nationwide system, rather than state based. Are we not one country?

There are a range of risk factors associated with higher rates of illness or injury in the population.

Such factors may be physiological (e.g. high blood pressure), they may relate to the environment (e.g. air pollution) or to lifestyle choices (e.g. smoking). Risk factors have been found to contribute substantially to disease and disability, and thus to reduced length of life and quality of life in Australia.

Work-related injuries pose a serious problem.

Work-related injuries range in seriousness from minor cuts and bruises to major injuries and illnesses or death. They may affect a person’s health, through immediate or long term pain, suffering or disability, and impact their economic well being through health expenses and lost income.

Employers also incur costs when workers are injured, through lost working days or lower productivity and the cost of workers’ compensation insurance. Information on work-related injury is used for planning occupational health and safety measures and appropriate financial compensation of people who suffer a work-related injury.

In a recent year there were 346 compensated fatalities in Australia, of which 84 resulted from accidents on the journey to or from work and 262 from workplace activities. As not all work-related deaths result in compensation, the total number of work-related deaths is thought to be higher.

The most common type of non-fatal compensated injuries or illness, which resulted in at least 10 days off work, were sprains and strains of joints and adjacent muscles, accounting for 54% of claims. Back injuries accounted for 25% of claims, making the back the most commonly injured part of the body.

Consistent with these data, ‘body stressing’ was the most common way that injuries arose, accounting for 44% of claims. Non-powered tools or equipment were involved in the injury in 25% of all claims, and environmental causes, such as slippery ground surfaces, high traffic areas, or steps and stairways, were involved in 14%. In all, 92,900 such claims were lodged, indicating that in 2000 about 1% of the workforce were compensated for a non-fatal injury or illness which entailed at least 10 days off work.

Not all work-related injuries and illnesses result in compensation. Household surveys supplement compensation data with information on the broader pattern of non-fatal work-related injury.

PROBLEM GAMBLING AND HEALTH

Researchers have also detected a strong link between problem gambling, particularly on the pokies, mental health problems and suicide.

CURBING RISING MEDICAL COSTS

Improvements in technology are unlikely to curtail Australia’s burgeoning healthcare costs, unless they are combined with eliminating wastage from inefficiencies in the current health system. These costs are projected to rise across every age group and expose the Commonwealth to “fiscal risk”.

The important thing about health projections is that it’s not just about the aging effect; it’s also about the increase in real per capita costs of health expenditure with technological change.

Health is actually a very productive industry. Every time a new technology comes around that lowers costs, demand goes up, swamping any decline in outlays. Examples are diagnostic imaging, pathology testing, nuclear medicine; you can think of any technology. Once they get cheaper, they become far more widespread.

Demand and technological pressures are projected to lift health spending across every age group. This is not just about the aged; for every age group, because health is a superior good, health costs will increase.

People aged 65 and above are very aware of the skyrocketing costs of the federal pharmaceutical benefits scheme since the 1990s. As a proportion of GDP, spending on health is projected to rise from 4
percent in 2009/10 to 7.1 percent in the 40 years to 2049/2050.

Age-related pensions and aged care are projected to rise from 2.7 per cent and 0.8 per cent of GDP, to 3.9 percent and 1.8 percent respectively in 2049/50.

Spending on health, age-related pensions and healthcare could almost double to about 50 percent over the decades to 2050 without action to curtail spending growth.

**Most Australians Should Improve Their Diets**

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare’s report, Australia’s Food and Nutrition 2012, found 91 percent of adults do not eat enough vegetables and only half eat enough fruit. One in five drinks alcohol at risky levels.

Households spent an average of $237 a week on food and beverages in 2009-10. By far the biggest component of spending was on food prepared outside the home, at restaurants and takeaways, where the average outlay was $63 a week. In second place was spending on alcoholic drinks, $32 a week, followed by meat, fish and seafood, $30 a week.

Australians spent just a few dollars more a week on fruit, nuts and vegetables than they did on condiments, confectionery, food additives and prepared meals.

In another section of its report, titled “We’re getting fatter”, the institute said 36 percent of adults are overweight and a further 25 percent obese. And we’re starting young. Of children two to 16 years old, 17 percent are overweight and a further 6 percent obese. That’s nearly one in four children with a weight problem.

Our increasingly sedentary lives are part of the problem, but this is swamped by the increased consumption of calorie-dense but nutrient-poor foods.

A federal government green paper on its National Food Plan hints at one reason. Obviously we eat sweets, burgers and chips because they taste great. But we also eat them because they are readily available and inexpensive.

“Analysis of Australian food expenditure data suggests a substantial proportion of the Australian population is severely restricted in its capacity to make healthy food choices and achieve a healthy lifestyle. Compounding the situation is evidence that the cost of healthy (low energy-density, high nutrient-density) foods are increasing disproportionately when compared with the cost of higher energy-density, relatively nutrient-poor foods.”

The problem is exacerbated in regional and rural areas, where not only is the availability of fresh fruit and vegetables restricted, but transport costs and fewer supermarkets mean prices are often higher. Fast food chains tend to have uniform national pricing, making it relatively cheaper for people in regional areas to eat at their restaurants.

Given the cost imposed on the public purse of treating obesity-related conditions such as heart disease and diabetes, not to mention the cost to individuals of poor health, self-image and shorter lives, we need to get serious about our what we eat.

One economic solution would be to increase the cost of fatty, sugary or excessively calorie-dense foods.

Other products harmful to our health, such as cigarettes and alcohol, already attract so-called ‘sin taxes’.

Sin taxes work by raising prices and discouraging consumption. Additionally, it can be argued the relatively low cost of junk food doesn’t incorporate the cost to the community of poor health and treatment.

Obviously, such a tax would be regressive - disproportionately affecting those on lower incomes - as do taxes on alcohol and cigarettes.

Governments could use the revenue from a fat tax to compensate the low income earners, who would still find fatty foods relatively more expensive. Sound familiar? It’s the same logic as the carbon tax. Even if you compensate people for the full effect of higher prices, by raising the relative price of a good, consumers will want to consume relatively less of it. That people respond to prices and incentives is one of the most basic concepts of economics.

All taxes impose some cost on society in terms of administration. Can we prove that the benefits through improved health would outweigh those costs?

A big part of the solution to the nation’s obesity crisis lies with education. Only by arming ourselves with knowledge of our body’s energy needs and the energy content of what we eat, can we begin to bring the two closer into line.

**More funding is urgently required for preventative health care and health education including teaching health education in schools. And why not more use of 457 visas to assist in increasing the number of health care workers and old age carers?**
3. Cruise Ship Terminal

Construction of a cruise ship terminal on the Gold Coast would have multiple benefits including job creation during construction with huge flow on opportunities. The long-term benefits of a cruise terminal and the flow on effect can bring in millions of dollars every year in new tourist revenue.

This issue of a cruise terminal is currently a major political and environmental issue, but properly managed it can provide huge long-term benefits and the flow on effect can bring in millions of dollars every year in new tourist revenue.

It could also be the catalyst for sustainable development of The Spit.

Current plans allow for the world’s biggest liners to sail in and would require a ferry system to complement the terminal to transport passengers. The ferries would also transport locals through the city’s extensive waterways.

The economic impact would be substantial, with tourists wanting to explore the destination, taste the food and get the feel of the city.

Gold Coast Tourism spokesman Ben Poles says, “Some of the work we have done demonstrates there is around $180 million in direct visitor expenditure that could be gained each year,” based on 139,000 passenger days in the city.

Poles says the Gold Coast is Australia’s number one tourism destination, receiving 11 million visitors each year, with an industry worth $4.5 billion.

“We believe the Gold Coast tourism market is big enough to sustain the market of cruise ships to the region without impacting on existing operations,” he said.

Gold Coast Mayor Tom Tate says a terminal would benefit existing tourism operators, and visitors to Brisbane spend an average of $179 per day.

“Across the industry that figure is growing and I would expect it to be higher by the time the Gold Coast receives its first passengers,” he said.

4. Transport

The Gold Coast Light Rail Project

Our 21st Century Australia party was recently approached with an innovative idea to support the extension of the Gold Coast light rail project.

At present, despite a massive cost of $2.5 billion, the light rail system under construction on the Gold Coast does not connect to existing heavy rail nor to the Gold Coast Airport. It starts in Broadbeach and runs to Griffith University via Surfers Paradise and Southport.

The builders of the project have reported that they would happily build extensions to the Gold Coast Airport and to Helensvale Railway Station for no cost to the Government or local council. In return they have asked for a 20-year contract to run it.

This is an innovative way to fund badly needed infrastructure, such as a fast train network.
OUR ROAD SYSTEM

As part of our platform of investing in key infrastructure and large nation building projects ahead of time, we will address the major issue of our road system. Some of the connecting roads in the Gold Coast to other major towns and cities really are appalling (for instance connecting from the Gold Coast to the Newell Highway, the shortest route to Melbourne and Adelaide).

For instance, the Newell Highway which runs from Queensland into Victoria, with its numerous connections to other areas, is a very busy road with just two lanes and the occasional passing lane. This road also carries large numbers of huge, very heavy Double-B semi-trailers travelling at the maximum allowable speed limit of 100 kilometers per hour.

When southern New South Wales and northern Victoria experience heavy, consistent rain such as in February and March 2012, motorists travelling on the Newell and Sturt Highways were forced to take major detours of up to hundreds of kilometers, for weeks. The inconvenience and cost of these disruptions to thousands of people and transport operators must have been huge.

Despite constant lip service by transport operators of how seriously they take this speed limit and assurances that they do not tamper with the truck’s speed limiters, it is not unusual for cars travelling at the 110 kilometers per hour speed limit to be tailgated and passed by trucks, supposedly speed limited to 100 kilometers per hour.

Four-lane highways that are not subject to flooding all across our national road grid would be a wonderful nation building project and when completed would surely attract more tourists to all the towns along the way?

Upgrade of the M1

The M1 is a major urban road corridor connecting Tugun near the New South Wales-Queensland border to the Sunshine Coast hinterland via the Pacific Motorway between Tugun and Eight Mile Plains, the Gateway Motorway between Eight Mile Plains and Bald Hills and the Bruce Highway between Bald Hills and Cooroy.

The M1 is widely used by Gold Coast residents but has major failings in peak traffic periods as four lanes merge to three and then two in some places, causing major traffic delays and frustrations for motorists.

Where the Gateway Motorway merges with the M1 at Springwood is also a problem area. The M1 needs urgent and major upgrades.

Complete The Pacific Highway.

Anyone who drives between Australia’s major cities will be aware of the deplorable roads on many journeys. If you drive from Sydney to the Gold Coast and Brisbane on the Pacific Highway part of the highway is a very good four-lane road. However, large parts of that highway are still a poor two-lane road and at holiday times motorists can face long delays as they merge from two lanes to one. Some sections of this highway are regarded as some of the most accident prone areas in the country. This highway is also heavily used by huge, very heavy Double-B semi-trailers traveling at the maximum allowable speed limit.

Once the Pacific Highway is completed it should provide major benefits to the Gold Coast. Such infrastructure would be accelerated under our policies.

A High Speed Rail system

Directly related to our road system is the pressing need for a High Speed Rail system that would provide fast and cost effective transportation from city centre to city centre without the need for the hassles of waiting at airports and commuting to airports.

A High Speed Rail system could take thousands of cars and trucks off our roads while simultaneously reducing road accidents.

The issue of a High Speed Rail system has been raised before in my book 101 Ways to Improve Australia and the idea has been around for more than 25 years.

We really think this type of infrastructure project needs to happen.

Initially the rail project should start with Newcastle to Sydney, and then extend to Canberra and start Geelong to Melbourne, then to Ballarat and Bendigo, and eventually Canberra connecting Melbourne to Sydney.

In Queensland it should start with Gold Coast to Brisbane, an estimated 22 minute trip from Robina to the Brisbane CBD with stops in Helensvale and Bogan eventually to the Sunshine Coast. Last but not least, connecting Gold Coast to Newcastle - thus connecting Brisbane with Melbourne, covering the large majority of Australia’s population.

Admittedly, to complete such a large project will require anywhere from $100 to $120 billion dollars. However redirecting fossil fuel subsidies, and other cost savings could fund this. Plus it can be cash positive well before it’s entirely complete. With latest estimates
suggesting returns of $2.30 for every $1 invested into it.

The $16 billion the Government wasted on the BER school program could have been put into infrastructure like this, or least into completing the Brisbane to Melbourne Freeways. Unfortunately the Government squandered that opportunity.

A rail network is also more environmentally friendly than air travel and takes congestion off the roads, which are expensive to build and maintain. The fast rail network could eventually pay for itself.

A high speed rail network can also assist in our goal of decentralisation by making regional cities closer to cities so more Australians can choose the quality of life regional Australia has to offer whilst committing to major cities in a timely fashion.

The Benefits of a Fast Train Network to Regional Australia

It can be more cost effective to house people in regional Australia than urban areas, thus helping to fund the cost of a fast train linking the major cities of Melbourne, Canberra, Sydney, Newcastle, the Gold Coast and Brisbane.

Victorian Deputy Premier Peter Ryan provides a good example. He says regional growth is an important focus for the Government. “A 2012 report found that by supporting growth in the regions we can help reduce the estimated $95 billion in cumulative congestion costs associated with expanding Melbourne’s outer-metropolitan areas over the next 20 years,” Ryan said.

“The cumulative cost of providing critical infrastructure to support an additional 50,000 persons in the regional cities is $1 billion; this compares with inefficiency costs of $3.1 billion associated with the same number of persons being accommodated in metropolitan Melbourne.”

Victorian Planning Minister Matthew Guy concedes decentralisation had been “talked about for decades. (But) very few governments have actually put in place targeted growth plans that provide clear and deliberate strategies to grow regional Victorian population and economies,” he said.

“One of the ways we will do this is a permanent urban growth boundary around Melbourne. It cannot continue to grow beyond Nar Nar Goon, Bunyip, Tynong, Garfield, on that good farm land ... it has to have a limit to it, once it reaches those limits people will look for places to live. Towns outside of Melbourne who will then begin to grow as commuter locations to Melbourne and eventually non-commuter. They will have a population that needs to be serviced unto themselves.”

A ministerial advisory committee and planning department are currently examining how it could be enforced, and looking to examples in European cities such as London and Dublin. The Metropolitan Planning Authority, consulting with councils, would determine whether the current boundary was where the city stops.

“The days of huge expansion of our urban growth boundary are over,” Mr Guy said. “Our biggest advantage as an economy and most strategic advantage, will be our ability to be a food producing economy in future.”

Mr Guy said an agricultural production overlay was also being “looked at the moment” to identify priority areas. It will heavily restrict residential growth within it,” he said. “It will determine that this is an area that is for important agriculture production ad infinitum.”

High Speed Rail Viable For Economy

“Politicians agree a high speed rail line along Australia’s east coast could be a visionary game changer that could prepare the nation for its future”, Ed Logue reported in 21st Century News on April 12th, 2013.

“But making a 1748 kilometer fast train rail track between Brisbane and Melbourne a reality within 50 years requires tough decisions by governments likely to baulk at the estimated $114 billion price tag.”

“In April 2013 Federal transport minister Anthony Albanese released the second and final report on a high-speed rail network, which the study forecast would be fully operating by 2065.”

“There is no doubt that there are challenges with this but I think high-speed rail will be an important part of Australia’s future,” Mr Albanese told reporters in Canberra.

“He stressed the report was not the government’s position but he was releasing it for public discussion because it raised all the issues of building such a complex project from scratch.”

“The route, the costs, the environmental consequences – these all have to be thoroughly examined and understood before decisions can be finalised,” he said. “The report throws up a myriad of issues. Like all major projects, this one would mean some tough decisions and potential trade-offs.”

“The study found the network was financially viable and could return $2.30 to the economy for every dollar invested.”
“Travel from Sydney to Melbourne or Brisbane would take under three hours, while a trip from Canberra to the NSW capital would be 64 minutes.”

“The line could carry 84 million passengers a year with 19 million trips between Sydney and Melbourne.”

“The preferred route would have regional stations at the Gold Coast, Casino, Grafton, Coffs Harbour, Port Macquarie, Taree, Newcastle, the NSW central coast, the southern highlands, Canberra, Wagga Wagga, Albury and Shepparton.”

“That might mean state governments need to quarantine land corridors for the line ahead of earliest construction in 2022.”

“The report said there would be benefits for the regions and warns current transport modes already face serious capacity, cost and logistical constraints.”

“High Speed rail is one of the top ten policy priorities of the new 21st Century Australia Party, with party founder Jamie McIntyre running against Tony Windsor and Barnaby Joyce for the seat of New England, where he grew up.”

Queensland premier Campbell Newman called the plan “exciting and visionary” but said Canberra had its priorities wrong. Mr Newman wants $4 billion now as an immediate priority to make the 1600km Bruce Highway dual-carriage.

NSW transport minister Gladys Berejiklian said her “state backed fast rail but the commonwealth had to first reveal what funding it would provide.”

“Commissioning the report was part of an agreement Labor made with the Australian Greens in 2010.”

“Greens leader Christine Milne said the government should begin building the “great nation building project now.”

State and territory ministers were scheduled to discuss the rail proposal with Mr Albanese in May 2013.

WHY NOT HAVE INFRASTRUCTURE BUILT FOR FREE?
Article from 21st Century News, April 2013

How 21st Century Australia can deliver brand new infrastructure, Australia wide, and in many cases for free.

Our 21st Century Australia party was recently approached with an innovative idea to support the Gold Coast light rail project to be extended.

Sounds too good to be true some might say, but it has been done before and should be done more often.

For example; At present, despite a massive cost of $2.5 billion, the light rail system under construction on the Gold Coast does not connect to existing heavy rail nor to the Gold Coast Airport. It starts in Broadbeach and runs to Griffith University via Surfers Paradise and Southport.

The builders of the project have reported that they would happily build extensions to the Gold Coast Airport and to Helensvale Railway Station for no cost to the Government or local council.

Yes, for free! In return they have asked for a 20-year contract to run it.

This is an innovative way to fund badly needed infrastructure, such as a fast train network.

21st Century Australia proposes a fast train network should be started within 5-years or less, in key areas such as the Gold Coast to Brisbane CBD; Melbourne to Albury and Canberra, Sydney to Newcastle.

The estimated total cost to join Melbourne to Brisbane would be around $100-$120 billion; however it can be built in stages and be cash flow positive before completion.

The Gold Coast to Brisbane connection would have estimated costs of $5 billion.

Government could fund this upfront or borrow for it. Remember borrowing for investment purposes is ‘good debt’ and is fine if returns on investment are sufficient. For every $1 invested into a fast train network a $2.30 return is expected.

With such returns estimated there are those in the private sector who would be willing to fund such infrastructure in return for operating licenses for a certain period.

This could provide Government with options other then debt funding or using existing taxation cash flows to develop such infrastructure.

Another great idea to get this country moving into the 21st Century!

Let’s get this country moving into the 21st Century with 21st Century Infrastructure, a 21st Century Education and a new 21st Century Political System!

All you need to do is vote for a 21st Century Australia Party and say, “Count me in” and join the 21st Century Australia Movement.
At peak hour the roads of our capital cities are choked, often to the point of gridlock, with mostly single occupier cars.

Vastly improved public transport systems have the potential to reduce traffic congestion and pollution, as well as providing a relatively low cost method of travel for people who are unable to drive. Almost one in five adults used public transport as their main form of travel to work or study.

Public transport use is considerably higher in capital cities than in other parts of Australia. This is in part due to their relatively large populations and extensive public transport infrastructure. Increased use of public transport in capital cities has the potential to reduce traffic congestion and pollution, including greenhouse gas emissions from motor vehicle exhaust. Public transport systems supply a social welfare service by providing a relatively low cost method of travel for those who are unable to drive or do not have access to a private motor vehicle. Public transport also contributes to economic development by transporting labour to locations of work.

The transport sector accounts for about 14% of Australia’s net greenhouse gas emissions. Between 1990 and 2005, the carbon dioxide equivalent emissions (CO2-e) from the transport sector grew by 30% or 18.5 million tonnes.

People should be encourage to reduce their reliance on private motor vehicles and consider more sustainable modes of travel, such as public transport.

The Bureau of Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Economics (BITRE) estimates that the ‘avoidable’ costs of traffic congestion total approximately $10 billion across Australian capital cities.

ROAD SAFETY

Better roads of course must lead to improved road safety. The loss of life and horrific accidents on our roads has been greatly reduced, but any loss of life on the roads is completely unnecessary; simultaneously it involves a financial cost and burden.

Recent reports suggest a large proportion of road deaths were preventable through investment in key areas including a more comprehensive approach to improving road infrastructure, more research and development in building safer cars, better driver education and improved emergency treatment for crash victims.

The need for more integrated planning and funding for cross-border road infrastructure at a number of locations is of concern to Gold Coast residents.

HEAVY VEHICLE LOAD LIMITS

Issues around legal load sizes and weights at all borders including NSW/Queensland need to be addressed.

The lack of volumetric loading in NSW is considered to disadvantage primary producers and transport companies unable to haul full loads in NSW. There are numerous examples of wide loads being able to be carted in other States and not in NSW.

The Tugun Bypass Tunnel on the Queensland border apparently has different restrictions on what can be taken through depending on whether trucks are travelling north or south, because of different State policies.

The need for an upgraded road between Warwick (Qld) and Grafton (NSW) to allow for B double trucks as an alternative freight route to the Pacific Highway is a priority.
5. Employment, Job Security and Growth

One of my major concerns regarding employment in this electorate is job growth and diversity.

Major industries in this electorate (Source: Gold Coast City Council – State Development, Trade and Innovation – ABS) are:

- Tourism with over 3.5 million overnight visitors per year and 6.2 million day visitors per year.
- Marine with 450 companies and over 3500 employees providing products and services to the world.
- Education with international student numbers rising from 8,160 students in 2003/04.
- Food & Wine with a popular wine growing district throughout the Hinterland and world class restaurants.
- Environment, an industry valued at $72.5 million per annum and employing 618 people across 161 enterprises.
- Health & Medical with five hospitals, health sciences faculty planned for Bond University and development of research/medical technology facilities at Griffith University.
- IT with major companies like IBM, AAPT, Austar, Eracom and strong growth in start up and development.
- Film with studio’s, production rooms, film laboratory and visual effect studio’s located here on the Coast.
- Sport with major code teams starting up and other choosing the Gold Coast for there away games.

These industries are all relatively small players - we need more jobs and diversity in the private sector.

Investing in education and people is a top priority for long-term returns across the whole economy. Better education will translate to jobs and opportunities.

There must be hundreds of big-city based employers who would relish a move to a far less expensive cost base and a rural lifestyle?

Our area surely provides many opportunities for the establishment of some major, new decentralized industries and businesses.

The rise of China has been of great benefit to our mining industry, though conversely Chinese manufactured goods have caused the demise of many thousands of manufacturing jobs in Australia.

Create Our Own Silicon Valley On The Gold Coast

It is my vision and the vision of our party to turn the Gold Coast area into the entrepreneurial, high technology centre of excellence of Australia in the style of Silicon Valley in the US.

A Gold Coast based entrepreneurial, high technology centre of excellence has the potential to create hundreds of local jobs.

For readers who may not be familiar with Silicon Valley, it is a region of the San Francisco Bay Area in Northern California, in the US. It is home to many of the world’s largest technology corporations as well as thousands of small startups. The term originally referred to the region’s large number of silicon chip innovators and manufacturers, but eventually came to refer to all the high-tech businesses in the area; it is now generally used as a metonym for the American high-tech sector.

Despite the development of other high-tech economic centers throughout the US and the world, Silicon Valley continues to be the leading hub for high-tech innovation and development, accounting for one-third of all of the venture capital investment in the US.
The strongest thread that runs through the Valley’s past and present is the drive to “play” with novel technology, which, when bolstered by an advanced engineering degree and channelled by astute management, has done much to create the industrial powerhouse we see in the Valley today.

It was in Silicon Valley that the silicon-based integrated circuit, the microprocessor, the microcomputer, among other key technologies, were developed. The region employs about a quarter of a million information technology workers.

Silicon Valley was formed as a milieu of innovations by the convergence on one site of new technological knowledge; a large pool of skilled engineers and scientists from major universities in the area; generous funding from an assured market with the Defense Department; the development of an efficient network of venture capital firms; and, in the very early stage, the institutional leadership of Stanford University.

The rise of Silicon Valley was also bolstered by the emergence of the venture capital industry and the development of appropriate legal infrastructure to support the rapid formation, funding, and expansion of high-tech companies, as well as the development of a critical mass of litigators and judges experienced in resolving disputes between such firms.

California law has a number of quirks which help entrepreneurs establish startups at the expense of established firms, such as a nearly absolute ban on non-compete clauses in employment agreements.

The Gold Coast is ideally situated to make it perfectly feasible as an entrepreneurial, high technology centre of excellence with huge flow on benefits including education and job creation.

The Gold Coast provides rental and leasing advantages for a high technology centre of excellence, combined with small city life style and commuting advantages.

Gold Coast Hinterland online businesses are selling more through PayPal than any other regional area in Australia, according to Gold Coast Business News (15 May 2013).

“The hinterland sits atop of PayPal Australia’s list of 10 regional hotspots for the period to March, with the highest total payment volume and a growth rate of 28 percent.

“Entrepreneurs taking a sea change are pushing the growth of the online economy in regional areas, with the coastal areas of Queensland and Northern New South Wales taking up most of the top 10.

“Regional centres have become hotbeds for innovative small businesses using the online world to reach consumers both in Australia and around the world,” says Emma Hunt, Head of Small Business at PayPal Australia.

“These areas have become a destination for seachangers, keen to get out of the city and make a flexible living as a niche small business.”

“Small to medium-sized businesses in these hotspots are growing at a faster rate than those in the top 10 non-regional areas, according to PayPal data.”

“The total payment volume of online businesses from the top 10 regional SMBs grew by 47 per cent in the period. Overall, total payment volume for PayPal regional SMBs grew 27 per cent.”

“Andrew Lygo, managing director of Spectrem Online, operates a number of online retail sites out of the Gold Coast, including Birds off Boats, Birds Off, Australian Gear and Hats by the Hundred.”

“The initial website, Birds Off Boats, turned over $50,000 in its first year and the business has grown revenue by 100 per cent each year since.”

“Lygo moved the business from Sydney to Queensland for the coastal lifestyle.”

“When we moved out of Sydney, we were keen to get away from the hustle and bustle of the city, settling down in an area that was both relevant to our business and provided a more flexible way of life,” says Lygo.

“We’ve been in operation for eight years and are continuing to see significant growth in our niche offering, by successfully operating both an online store and a showroom in the Gold Coast.”

Intellectual Property is the Holy Grail and Will Make Us A Smarter Country

A role model for a Gold Coast entrepreneurial, high technology centre of excellence of Australia.

According to Phil Ruthven, Chairman of IBISWorld, “Australia’s fastest growing decade in the post-WWII years was the 1960s, averaging 5.5% per annum growth in GDP, and that corresponded
with the nation spending its biggest share of GDP on investment (capital expenditure). So to grow the economy, we must invest. The first chart shows our history of investment over the past half century or so.

![Chart showing national investment as % of GDP]

“We have not managed to emulate the investment level of the 1960s (30.1% of GDP average) since then, nor have we ever sacrificed over 45% of GDP to get GDP growth of over 8.0% per annum, as China currently does. However, Australia is on the road to investing a lot more of its total capital expenditure in intellectual property, or IP for short, as the second chart reveals.

![Chart showing changing Australian investment]

“Much more of the nation’s annual investment is going into IP these days: from nothing over 50 years ago to about 11% in 2012 (or approaching one-fifth of all private business investment excluding dwellings and government capital expenditure). Intellectual property has become a serious factor in business at large over recent decades, and is being encouraged by our governments.

“Of course, in retrospect, intellectual property and uniqueness explain the extraordinary success of entrepreneurs such as James Hargraves (Spinning Jenny), Thomas Edison (phonograph, light bulb, etc), Henry Ford (mass-produced cars), our own H V McKay (Sunshine Harvester) in Australia, Steve Jobs (Apple Inc), Tim Berners-Lee (the internet) and thousands of others that have created new goods and services that have grown the economy and enriched our lives and businesses.

“Intellectual property is the Holy Grail of an enterprise, its core and its most valuable balance sheet asset, whether recorded as such in dollar terms or not. We’ll come back to the “whether recorded” bit later.

“So what is intellectual property? In effect it is a cocktail of:

- unique products and systems
- unique skills and special competencies
- patents, trademarks and brands
- organisational culture and customer relation protocols
- visionary plans and documented achievable strategies
“Our annual IP investment levels are probably understated, as many businesses – especially but not only SMEs – do not record a lot of IP effort or are not permitted to claim it as capital expenditure. This has certainly been true through virtually all of the Industrial Age for corporations until the mid-1960s, and for most businesses for much of this new Infotronics Age until recent decades.

“The value of IP as part of our national resources is equally interesting, as the third chart reveals. IBISWorld estimates IP as some 5.4% of the nation’s assets of over $11 trillion in 2012-13. This includes the undervalued value of company assets (including listed companies on the ASX, which we will return to shortly). This IP includes:

- software programs
- spectrum licenses (media)
- mineral exploration
- artistic IP
- patents and trademarks
- other IP, intangibles and goodwill

“Interestingly, the value of IP is within reach of overtaking the value of all natural resources (7.7% of the total) in the not too distance future. And not before time for a modern economy!

“Even at the end of the Industrial Age in the mid-1960s, the IP proportion was over one-quarter of a share price. But then, there was a much larger component of hard (or passive) assets on most balance sheets in the form of land, buildings, equipment, stock and debtors.”

“Such passive assets are now considered to be lead-in-the-saddlebag by smart CEOs and their boards.

“So the smart businesses are eschewing passive assets on their balance sheets via outsourcing, operating leases and factoring. After all, passive assets can only yield a rental-level internal rate of return, say 9.0% to 11% at best.

“Service industries, of course, have an easier job with less need of hard assets and stock anyway, and nearly 60% of our economy is now in service industries that carry no meaningful level of stock.
“Why have any asset on a balance sheet that cannot earn 21% to 25% returns (after tax) on shareholder funds? This is the new world best practice standard profitability established by New York’s Dow Jones Index over the past three decades, and achieved as an average even through every year of the global financial crisis. When one notes the composition of the NYSE Top 30 (dominated by IT, pharmaceutical and other companies with high IP assets) compared with Australia’s ASX Top 30 (dominated by companies with lower IP content, such as banks and miners), it is not surprising that the US companies have easily outstripped our profitability for decades.

“Intellectual property is the only active asset in this new age and it is winning over passive assets, which are being relegated to managed funds and superannuation funds. It is one of the keys to success in this increasingly competitive new Infotronics Age and new century.

“And it will make us a smarter country, which we need to be in the very fast growing and very competitive Asia-Pacific region, which is now our economic and social arena as well as our geographic arena.”

Lower The Company Tax Rate and Eliminate Payroll Tax to Create More Jobs

Our country has an uncompetitively high corporate tax rate.

The recent Henry review wanted a substantial cut in the company tax rate, lowering the company tax rate from 30 percent to 25 percent but, like so many of the review’s proposed reforms, there was never a political constituency for it and the Gillard government did nothing to build one.

One way to achieve a lowering of the company tax rate at less cost is to create a tiered tax rate.

For instance, profits under $250,000 could be taxed at only 15 percent, profits between $250,000 and $1 million could be taxed at 20 percent, profits between $1 million and $10 million at 25 percent, profits between $10 million and $100 million at 27.5 percent, and profits above $100 million at 28.5 percent.

This would encourage new companies to grow stronger faster, as well as creating more jobs before being burdened with a higher tax rate and simultaneously increase the chances of more companies paying higher tax in the future.

By comparison Great Britain currently has a company tax of a maximum of 24 percent which is set to reduce to 21 percent in 2014.

The US has a sliding scale with a maximum tax of 30 percent.

Company tax in the Republic of Ireland is often cited as an example of tax competition, as it is used as an incentive for foreign companies to invest in the state.

There are three rates of corporation tax in the Republic of Ireland 12.5 percent for trading income, 25 percent for non-trading income and at one stage there was a special rate of 10 percent for companies involved in manufacturing.

Payroll Tax is absurd!

We believe Payroll Tax will lead to further outsourcing of jobs overseas. That means Australians are losing jobs due to the tax disincentives.

At least in the short-term pay roll tax should be removed from companies with less then 100 staff. That way small to medium businesses can grow and employ more people, before being bled to death by incompetent state governments who mismanage our money.

Did you know the state governments were supposed to remove payroll tax in return for GST revenue when GST was introduced? It’s true, but they failed to.

Few employees realize that companies pay 4 to 5% payroll tax on top of each employee’s salary (on top of superannuation).

That’s approximately $2,500 for someone on $50,000. And $5,000 for someone on $100,000 – plus 9% for super.

Payroll taxes imposed by greedy state governments will surely lead to a continued loss of Australian jobs, replaced by outsourced overseas staff.

We also need to look very closely at penalty rates and their impact on job creation.

Nation Building To Create More Jobs

What was the last nation building project Australia took on that had wide benefits to millions of Australians?

Beside the jobs created, how could Australia and Australians benefit from some major nation building projects? What nation building projects would you like to see? Currently the National Broadband Network (NBN) is under construction and is promoted by the federal government as a nation building project.

The federal government has a website listing current ‘nation building projects,’ which in reality are very small localized projects such as
upgrading a stretch of road.

Where is the next nation building project of any magnitude?

As mentioned earlier Australia is a huge land mass and surely the mining boom presented the opportunity for the establishment of major new self-contained rural centres. Instead the mining companies choose to fly their workers in on a fly-in, fly-out (FIFO) basis.

**To create jobs, Australia needs to become a value added manufacturing country**

Value added refers to “extra” feature(s) of an item of interest (product, service, person, etc.) that go beyond the standard expectations and provide something “more” while adding little or nothing to its cost. Value-added features give competitive edges to companies with otherwise more expensive products.

In Australia we are very good at digging holes in the ground and selling that product overseas. Australia needs to follow the example of Germany and Japan for instance and become world-class at value adding to raw materials and creating cost effective, world class products that have export potential.

Both of these countries produce up-market motor vehicles, that have many value added features over their basic model that allow them to be sold at much higher prices and higher profit margins. Trade gossip has it that the value added Lexus model creates more profit for Toyota than their basic models despite much lower sales volumes.

In Australia our agribusinesses can add value in a number of ways. Value-adding is driven by a thorough knowledge of consumer needs, local resources and production processes. It can occur at any stage of the production process and can include creative new uses of previously unconsidered resources or by-products.

Marketing is a key part of the value-adding process. It might focus on increasing understanding of the health benefits, the convenience advantage or the environmental safety of a product. These are communicated through branding, labelling and advertising so the consumer can see the benefits of the new value-added product.

**Business Education to Create Jobs**

Surely better educated people who have real life work skills when they enter the workforce, thus being able to make a real contribution as soon as they start work, will in due course lead to the creation of more jobs?

Business education is something I am very passionate about. I have outlined my ideas on this topic in the education section.

**Employment Sectors**

Since 2008 there have been 279,000 private sector jobs created in Australia. Yet in the same period a massive 406,000 public sector jobs have been created.

Since 2008 private sector jobs have grown by 20%, yet public sector jobs have increased by a massive 60% In 2000 there were 3.2 private jobs to every government employee. This has now dropped to a ratio of only 2.5.

(This is an estimated 270,000 excess public service workers, at an approximate cost of $27 billion per annum).

Source: Australian Financial Review April 19 2013
6. Welfare Issues on the Gold Coast

The Gold Coast is widely perceived as a ‘dole bludgers paradise’ with welfare recipients spending their days surfing.

Both Julia Gillard and Tony Abbott have found it necessary to talk tough on welfare reform. Abbott describes the Newstart Allowance as “misguided compassion”, while Gillard is more moderate but even she focuses on perceptions of idleness: “It’s not fair for taxpayers to pay for someone who can support themselves.”

A recent OECD economic survey reported that Australian unemployment benefits are among the lowest of 30 wealthy nations.

One train of thought is that to achieve real welfare reform, why not increase payments so that people can live with dignity?

Most unemployed people do want jobs and don’t want to be trapped forever in pension poverty.

However, you can’t take someone with poor literacy, a history of mental illness, a physical disability and no work experience and simply hook them up with a job. It requires a great deal of support, training opportunities and a flexible and understanding employer to make it work. And that is expensive and time consuming.

In the 1970s an Australian media campaign against welfare recipients was also particularly effective at stigmatising them. The Daily Mirror reported: “Weed Out the Dole Cheats! It is patently obvious that there are people in this community who don’t give a damn about their mates. They laughingly laze on beaches, frequent pubs and clubs, indulge themselves all day, living as parasites on the community. They are the dole bludgers.

Similarly the respected Age newspaper ran a story entitled “Jobless who cop it sweet” in which its economics writer stated “There are two classes of cheats—the criminal variety (working and also collecting the dole) and malingerers (collecting the dole and making no attempt to gain a job).”

The media coverage succeeded in stigmatising the unemployed. A survey by academics and students at Monash University found that the majority of those surveyed felt that unemployment benefits were too easy to get and 72 percent believed that there was widespread abuse of the benefits system.

In a more recent survey 66 percent of Australians said that they thought the welfare system makes people unwilling to look after themselves. This was even true of the young who had the highest rates of unemployment. Over half of the 14-17 year olds surveyed said unemployment was due to “personal unwillingness to work”.

Influx of New Zealanders to the Gold Coast raises fears of homelessness, crime and health issues, Paul Weston reported in the Queensland Sunday Mail In August 2011,

“ The latest research from Statistics New Zealand shows 29,900 permanent and long-term residents arrived in Australia in the 12 months to June - the largest in three years.

“Most of them are heading to Queensland, with 16,000 short and long-term-stay New Zealanders flying in to Brisbane Airport from earthquake-prone Christchurch.

“Statistics New Zealand research shows more than 10,000 Christchurch residents arrived at the Coast’s Coolangatta airport in the first six months of this year - many of them refugees from the city’s 6.3-magnitude earthquake that struck on February 22. 

“Figures released to The Sunday Mail from Education Queensland revealed 8767 New Zealand-born students are enrolled in Coast-Logan schools.

“Up to 70 per cent of new enrolments at larger Coast schools, such as Upper Coomera State College and Keebra Park, identify themselves as New Zealanders or Maori and Polynesian.

“But research being gathered by welfare workers is tracking a downside, with some New Zealand children arriving at school without food and lacking uniforms or resources.
“Their unemployed parents, who cannot obtain welfare benefits, are seeking emergency funding from shelters to get a plane ticket home.”

“In a blunt message to fellow New Zealanders, Nerang Neighbourhood Centre co-ordinator Vicky Va’a said: “Don’t come here if you don’t have a plan and don’t already know what is available here if things go bad. “When it’s good, it’s really good. When it’s bad, it’s homelessness, crime and health issues (for your family). That’s what happens when you are stressed. Of the 300 people each week seeking free food packages at the Nerang centre, half are New Zealanders,” she said.

“The Nerang centre, along with a Southport shelter, has in the past 12 months released emergency relief funding to help more than a dozen families buy plane tickets home.”

“Ms Va’a, a 42-year-old mother who moved to the Gold Coast from Wellington with her husband and two young daughters two years ago, has sent her report to the Maori Party outlining the challenges facing community workers.”

“It details how youths without parental support get caught up in gang-related crime”. According to court staff working for Brisbane Children’s Court southside office, New Zealanders accounted for 28 per cent of their case workload, the report said.

“Member for Gaven Alexander Douglas has accused government agencies of “responding poorly” to reasonable requests made by him to offer help to New Zealanders in his electorate. “I’m aware of houses designed for six people that have 10,” Dr Douglas said.

7. Electricity Prices

Electricity prices are of growing concern to most Australians and especially to people in the Gold Coast electorate.

Gold Coast Hinterland residents are being smashed by the highest electricity prices in the state with the average household forking out $3500 a year, according to Jessica Elder and Mackenzie Ravn in the Gold Coast News of 26 June 2012.

“Choice consumer group surveyed 67,000 Queenslanders and revealed Hinterland locals spend $3516 on average annually -- more than double the average in other Gold Coast suburbs.

“Central Gold Coast locals pay $2630 on average, residents in the Coomera area pay about $2032 and Coolangatta locals just $1583.”

Average Electricity Prices

- Mt Tamborine (4272 postcode area) $3516
- Southport, Labrador (4215 area) $2918
- Surfers Paradise (4217 area) $2630
- Mudgeeraba (4213 area) $2368
- Ashmore, Arundel (4214 area) $2291
- Robina, Merrimac (4226 area) $1818
- Currumbin (4223 area) $1797
- Coolangatta (4225 area) $1583
Some energy prices in Australia have risen by an astounding 91 per cent in five years, caused mainly by the NSW government privatising the retail electricity market, but not regulating prices.

“The cheapest state is Queensland with a regulated price of 8c per kWh, and an average household bill of $438.83, followed closely by Western Australia with similar figures.

“Energy Matters claims solar panel systems can lower energy costs to 7 cents per kilowatt hour compared to the average electricity company prices of between 18 cents and 45 cents per kilowatt hour in daytime hours.

It is no small irony that although the cost of electricity is rapidly rising, demand is falling.

Economics 101 would suggest prices should fall when demand falls.

When it comes to the supply of power there is a flaw in the regulatory framework that leads to a ‘gold plating’ of the grid, the poles and wires that make up the network.

For instance in New South Wales, where consumers will be hit hardest, network upgrades will account for 60 percent of the total rise in electricity costs.

The carbon tax is often regarded as causing these massive rises, though that tax will have some bearing, network upgrades are the big offender.

Electricity prices and the privatisation of electricity are something of a political football in Australia.

In August 2012, NSW Premier Barry O’Farrell released details of an a report that delivered a harsh assessment of NSW electricity businesses, saying they are “inefficient in comparison to others” and that this has contributed to prices rising more quickly in NSW than in other states.

In Australia prior to 1994 virtually all electricity was supplied through vertically integrated state monopolies. A decade later, the integrated monopolies had been disaggregated into different businesses with the competitive aspects of supply (generation and retailing) reconstituted into dozens of independent firms, many of them privately owned and the rest ‘corporatized’ and operating at arms length from their government owners.

People living large home unit complexes often have an electricity supplier forced upon them that they have never previously heard of, while wondering if the prices they are charged are extortionate.

Monopoly aspects of supply are regulated by agencies independent from the jurisdictional governments.

Despite, or is it because of this, regulation by agencies, ‘bill shock’ is a looming nightmare for low-income households. Electricity is a basic commodity and rises of 15 percent and more each year in a basic commodity are not merely a menace to the welfare of the household, but a threat to small business and economic growth.

Power prices are escalating so rapidly, and to such levels, that they will soon come under pressure from an increasingly angry electorate.

The ‘gold plating’ arises because the network providers make a margin on the size of their asset base. The more they spend on their assets, the higher the dividend they pay to government each year.

Transgrid, the owner, operator and manager of the transmission system for NSW’s high-voltage electricity, expects to expand its asset base by 24 per cent at a cost of $2.6 billion over the next five years.

Demand for electricity has been falling since 2008 in Victoria, NSW and Queensland at roughly 1 per cent a year. That is in spite of forecast rises of 2.2 per cent a year. Demand is now 10 per cent below where the industry forecast it would be four years ago.

Mild weather, changing consumer behavior and rising input costs have all been factors. The billions earmarked to upgrade the grid for the National Electricity Market have been based, erroneously, on assumptions of rising demand.

Independent pricing regulator IPART and the Australian Energy Regulator have both expressed concern about the network costs, to no avail.

Incredibly, while the NSW government ignores the issue, we have the bizarre situation of Canberra compensating the biggest polluters as part of its carbon tax package.

So what is the real impetus behind spiralling electricity prices?

Look no further than what the independent regulatory agencies are saying.
The Australian Energy Regulator (AER), the Australian Energy Markets Commission (AEMC) and the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) have all suggested that rising prices are due to overspending on the part of the network providers.

It is also likely that the NSW government will exploit this surging capital expenditure, or ‘gold-plating’ of the networks, as it fattens up its electricity cash-cow Transgrid for privatization.

Prices in NSW have risen 70 percent over the past five years and were forecast to jump another 18 percent in the financial year 2012-2013, even though the carbon price will contribute to just 8 percent of that, according to IPART.

We have a situation bordering on the ridiculous where the more the network spends - it makes a regulated return - the higher its budget and the more revenue flows to government.

For its part, Transgrid fends off claims of ‘gold-plating’ by saying that pricing is determined by independent parties and the network needs to be constantly upgraded. Both claims are true, but it seems there is also truth to claims of ‘gold-plating’.

Further evidence of gold-plating came from John Pierce, chairman of the Australian Energy Markets Commission (AEMC), who says the industry’s explanations for price hikes are unconvincing: “We don’t find particularly convincing the explanations for the price increases that have been provided by either the regulator or by the industry,” said Pierce.

Then there is the independent pricing regulator, IPART. In a letter to the Pierce, IPART chief executive James Cox said the current regulatory arrangements were putting upward pressure on network prices.

“(These arrangements) constrain the AER’s ability to apply what it considers to be the best estimate of the efficient operating and capital costs.

“(They) provide strong incentives for network business to invest capital in the network because the prescriptive requirements of the Rules may lead to excessive returns.” ‘Gold-plating’ that is.

Cox went on to say that the rules allowed the network businesses to earn a return on all capital invested, “regardless of efficiency and prudence, by requiring the AER to roll all capital expenditure into the asset base”.

In federal parliament independent MP Rob Oakeshott lambasted the NSW government for failing to cap prices as it had said it would. “The National Electricity Market was the greatest market failure in Australia today, sending cost of living pressures through the roof’ Oakeshott said. He has a point.

It is also interesting to record the time it takes one of Australia’s largest energy provider to do a final reading when someone vacates their premises. Not so long ago energy companies were able to do a final reading at one days notice. The energy provider mentioned here quotes around seven or eight days for a final reading.

In August 2012 the federal regulator which approves power price increases confirmed what many consumers have long felt - consumers are paying more than necessary for a reliable supply of electricity.

However the regulator says it is unable to do much about it, saying, “We are constrained in our ability to reject excessive demands from businesses.” The chairman of the Australian Energy Regulator, Andrew Reeves, said that unless the regulations which govern its decision-making process were overhauled, network operators, including state governments, will continue to over-invest in infrastructure, forcing consumers to cover the costs which the operators receive back as dividends.
8. Education

Falling education standards are both a local and national concern. Just ask any teacher about their student's verbal and literacy skills!

We believe investing in education and people is a top priority for long-term returns across the whole economy. Better education will translate to jobs and opportunities.

Our platform for education is based on a modern day 21st century education curriculum to replace our current 19th century industrialisation system. One that is based on practical real life education with financial education as a necessity. This will achieve a world leading education model without needing one extra cent of revenue. It will ensure the pay quality of teachers is increased due to their significant importance in society with pay rise funded from efficiency gains.

We believe In a new modern day 21st century education curriculum to replace our current 19th Century industrial era education system. One based on practical real life education with financial education as a necessity.

A modern day 21st century education system can be delivered for no extra cost than the education budget.

In fact it can be delivered for billions less and prove better services can be delivered by a results driven government that knows to make things happen.

There is no excuse for continuing with our flawed 19th Century Education System when a modern 21st Century one can be implemented immediately and save billions in the process.

We need business education taught at school to develop and breed smart future entrepreneurs. Schools should be the hub of innovation where many business's and apps are created.

For example, recently, a former Australian 17-year old had just sold the app business he started as a 14-year old for $28 million to Yahoo.

How many more budding talent in schools are there that we are not developing or profiting from the encouragement of entrepreneurial talent?

Why can’t our schools help develop and fund some selected start ups and profit from the success of such projects like the large American colleges do?

Our society depends upon the success of entrepreneurs. Students need to be taught the importance of entrepreneurship in society and that there is no abundant society without them.

Every job and every single tax dollar all starts from entrepreneurial success.

This makes our current Treasurer Swan appear ridiculous as he attacks entrepreneurs and our wealth creators as he makes them out to be the enemy of the state.

Interestingly education is one of the largest employers in the Gold Coast electorate.

An education that matches the requirements and expectations of both students and future employers is essential to ensure Australia’s future prosperity and growth

We will create from the ground up a new, modern day, 21st Century Education System for our schools.

In education and awareness lies the very solution to all of our problems. True Education, not just academia, is the key to prosperity.

A New, Modern Day 21st Century Education

Let’s have a new modern day 21st Century Education curriculum created by non-government bureaucrats based on practical real life education and financial education as a necessity.
Common sense tells me that to excel in the 21st century one needs an education designed for today's world; that is what I call a 21st century education.

It is obvious those who have a 21st century education are more likely to excel than those who do not.

In my view there are five major components to a 21st century education:

1. Emotional Intelligence
2. Financial Intelligence
3. The four key skills:
   i) Creative thinking
   ii) Negotiating
   iii) Communicating
   iv) Marketing
4. Results, Purpose, Action (or RPA)
5. Designing your life

Further Financial Education should be taught at schools by those with a PhD in Results.

With such world leading technology, this much-needed modern education system could be provided to all Australians for minimal cost.

Think about it! Why send our children to 20th Century schools designed in the 19th century industrialization era (that sets them up for financial failure in life)? Let’s get into the 21st century!

The current schooling system needs to embrace Financial Education and better equip the youth of today to excel financially.

Combined with Financial Education being taught at schools, I would suggest a Government grant of $5,000 be made available to Australians who have finished school, but didn’t get a proper financial education. That grant would be used to invest in financial education courses to improve their financial intelligence.

We don’t need the Gonski Report: we need a 21st century education. Governments don’t need to waste more on education, instead, western countries need to adopt a 21st century education system.

Currently, education following the release of the Gonski report, education is hotly debated topic. Unfortunately all the states and territories are unable to come to any form of agreement with the federal government on the implementation of a new education system.

Surely this says something about our education system and those responsible for it?

The Australian government mistakenly thinks the solution to improving the Australian education system is the Gonski report which basically involves throwing more money at education. This trend is similar to other western countries. However, it is a complete waste of taxpayers’ money.

Following the footsteps of the UK and US, ever since the Rudd and Gillard governments in Australia came into power, the education budget has risen by 40 percent. Yet, the standard of education is simply going backwards despite billions of dollars being spent on it.

Throwing more money at a flawed and inept education system is simply wasting billions of dollars!

The education system doesn’t need more money thrown at it. What it needs is the scrapping of the 19th century industrialisation era’s outdated and badly designed education system. The real need is to implement a modern day 21st century education system - something I have been lobbying for 15 years now.

A modern day 21st century education system will not only deliver results tenfold to the current one, with the use of modern day technology it can be delivered for a fraction of the cost.

For instance, many classes can be delivered using DVD or videos downloaded online. Similarly, work sheets for lessons and tests can be downloaded. These are valuable resources to help teachers provide a better quality education and improve student learning.

In fact with the uptake of Apple technology, iPads have become an engaging learning tool. Moreover apps are providing teachers and students greater resources for learning at their fingertips. This can help revolutionise our education system.

Last year I spoke to Apple co-founder Steve Wozniak, who is also passionate about transforming the world’s education system. According to Steve, with breakthrough technology computers can be implemented to provide a teaching role to students that are one-on-one with personalised curriculum.

For instance, current technology, such as Siri on the iPhone, can
answer most questions. Using technology akin to this and turning computers into a one-on-one personal teacher isn’t so farfetched.

Such technology would decrease the cost of delivering education because computers can cost less than a sole teacher’s annual wage.

It is time for a change - a change that involves proper training for teachers. Teachers are effectively educators and hold one of the most critical roles in society, therefore they need more support.

Top teachers should be rewarded with performance bonuses and there should be consistent reviews to eliminate the low performing ones.

In a 21st Century education system, teachers need to be trained also in public speaking; NLP (Neuro-Linguistic Programming), psychology and they should know how to teach accelerated learning and how to engage an audience effectively by imparting an education system for today’s world.

Moreover, a part of a teacher’s job should be to inspire and influence students positively in order to have them truly motivated so that those students can go on to add massive value to the society.

A ‘results’ based education system working closely with parents and employers will deliver students that are ready, willing and able to advance our society to higher levels with their passion, dedication, intelligence and emotional fulfilment.

I have designed a framework to change the world’s current education system into a 21st Century Education System which I have outlined below:

Outcomes: Create, design, and implement a modern day, global 21st Century Education System and replace the out-dated 19th century industrialised education system.

Why:
To be the catalyst for worldwide, systematic change and to empower, inspire, and educate billions of youth globally thus reshaping the entire planet positively.

Action:
1. Form a Global Think Tank of leading business and thought leaders to both support the initiative and contribute ideas and resources.

I have started inviting business and thought leaders to join this Global Education Initiative to help change the world’s education. These people, many of whom readers will be familiar with, include Sir Richard Branson (founder of the Virgin Group), Anthony Robbins (self-help author and motivational speaker, Robert Kiyosaki (financial literacy activist and author of Rich Dad, Poor Dad, Tim Ferriss (entrepreneur and author of The 4-Hour Workweek, Sir Ken Robinson (author and international advisor on education in the arts, Oprah Winfrey (media proprietor, talk show host, and philanthropist, Steve Wozniak (Apple co-founder), Bill Gates (Microsoft co-founder), Arnold Schwarzenegger (actor, bodybuilder, politician and businessman).

Apple, Google, Samsung, Facebook and Microsoft are also being invited to be involved due to them showing interest in reshaping the world’s education system through technology.

2. Develop a non-profit foundation to help create, design, and implement a new 21st Century Education System.

3. Develop websites and apps that provide access to resources for governments, teachers, and educators worldwide to immediately improve the current education system, and to encourage the involvement of leading technology experts to expand the available resources.

The curriculum for a modern day 21st century education needs to include areas such as:

- Life skills
- Financial literacy
- Emotional Intelligence
- Health
- Social and relationship skills
- Technology skills for the digital age including options to learn ‘coding’

The curriculum for a modern day 21st century education should also include generalist skills that can be used in almost all vocations not just specialised skills. These could include:

- Creative problem solving skills
- Negotiation skills
- Communication skills
- Marketing skills
- Entrepreneurial skills
4. Convene an annual gathering of the 21st Century Global Education Think Tank leaders, plus a national one for each major country.

**Challenges to overcome**

Challenges facing the creation of a 21st Century Education System include funding the creation, design and implementation of a new, modern day 21st Century Education System.

Funding is not likely to be an issue for schools and governments, because a new, modern day education utilising existing technology can increase the quality and efficiency of the current education model.

This will reduce costs that can then be redistributed to more resources, ensuring a modernised education system is implemented effectively at a lesser cost than existing education budgets.

**Class size debate**

Perhaps the debate should not be about the optimum class size; instead it should focus on the quality of the education being taught, and the ability of the educator to reach out to the student through skill and the power of influence.

For example: why can Anthony Robbins (one of the world’s leading educators) intimately influence and impact 5,000 people in a room, while a teacher with no public speaking training struggles to teach 25 students in a classroom?

**Use technology to improve Australia’s outdated education system**

For instance, every Australian child at school should be provided with a mini-tablet such as the mini iPad.

To bring our education system into the 21st Century we must have students utilising 21st Century technology.

This would save billions in the cost of text books as it is cheaper to download text books. It will also save children having to lug large heavy text books in their back packs which has caused a lot of back related issues.

Studies are showing that school children that have been using iPads in classes have improved their learning abilities and are far more engaged, and see learning as fun again.

I was impressed when I recently met with Apple’s co-founder, Steve Wozinak, as he has a similar passion to revolutionize the world’s education system and bring it into a 21st century education.

This is in alignment with my core mission.

Steve believes computers can one day be personal one-to-one teacher mentors.

Just as you can now ask Suri, using an iPhone, almost anything, he believes the technology isn’t far away where a Suri like computer can be tailored to teach students a preset curriculum.

In the meantime, the iPad is showing positive results in schools that have introduced them. You only have to see how eager kids become when an iPad is within sight, they set everything aside to use one.

Schools that have started using them found that suddenly learning and behavior problems in kids have become almost non existent. Which suggests a lot of disobedience in students stems from the sheer boredom from the traditional 19th Century style school system.

I am preparing a ‘National Think Tank’ on how to implement a 21st Century modern day education into Australian schools. The ‘National Think Tank’ will also support global initiatives being prepared from the ‘Global Think Tank’ I’ve started.

The good thing is, a modern day education system can be implemented into Australian schools that would dramatically lower the costs of the education budget, thus funding isn’t an issue.

In fact, the current government has increased education spending by 44% since the last government. This begs the question; has there been any improvement whatsoever in education standards?
9. De-urbanisation and Decentralisation of Australia

The Gold Coast and Tweed area is an ideal location for de-urbanisation and decentralisation of the Australian population.

Strong population growth is a position advocated by many business interests. A Productivity Commission, Economic Implications of an Ageing Australia, Research Report, predicts an increase in population up to 42.5 million people by 2056, and our population to reach between up to 62.2 million by 2101. (At the time of writing Australia’s population had just passed 23 million.)

Significant progress toward a sustainable physical economy in Australia requires more than just managing our future levels of population. It will also require the simultaneous management of infrastructure, lifestyle, energy, international trade, inbound tourism and the technology incorporated in key machines and processes.

To facilitate this almost doubling of our population we will need to seriously address a wide range of issues. We will need to implement substantial innovation to ensure that stocks of buildings, motor cars, passenger transport and freight systems that incorporate the cleanest, most advanced technology will have time to penetrate the national system.

If these trends eventuate, growth could underpin new export industries that are rich in services and information, which can substantially replace the current export mix.

Under this high-population scenario, the population would be proportionally younger. The proportion of dependent people - important for health and welfare issues - is greater than for the low and medium scenarios.

This changing demographic structure raises important issues.

Regional Australia tends to age more than the cities, due to internal migration. The impact of regional aging is compounded by increasing age-related medical problems in the regions, compared to younger cities. Also, the demand for services such as education will fluctuate, because of slow-moving changes in demographic structures.

Australia needs to prepare the workforce and its infrastructure well ahead of time, to better accommodate these issues.

Sydney and Melbourne are already overcrowded to the point that large tracts of both cities have become little more than dormitory suburbs, and in some cases rife with high rates of criminal activity.

This predicted population increase provides huge opportunities for decentralised cities and rural growth.

Properly managed and managed sustainably it has the potential to create significant prosperity for regional Australia as never witnessed before.

De-urbanisation and decentralised cities can also reduce cost of road works by taking pressured off roads by utilising high speed rail network.

Larger populations in regional towns and cities can help assist with improved services such as health education transport and infrastructure through better economies of scale.

We should also look at creating special economic zones to encourage people to live in remote areas.

Northern Australia is a perfect spot for an economic zone to boost Australia’s wealth. The idea of utilising an economic zone to boost a country’s prosperity is nothing new and it has proven to work successfully in many places.
The high speed rail network can also assist in this goal by making regional cities closer to cities so more Australians can choose the quality of life regional Australia has to offer whilst committing to major cities in a timely fashion.

Improved roads and infrastructure are vital to encourage de-urbanisation and decentralised cities, such as completion of the Pacific Highway and vast improvements to the New England highway with a vision for dual carriageway connecting Sydney to Tamworth and eventually to the Gold Coast and Brisbane.

We must get away from the capital city of each state being the hub for most government and business activity.

With the massive waste of money from the Gillard government, such as $250 billion and counting in debt we could have funded many major projects such as this.

By being fiscally responsible and driving efficiency gains in all three levels of government this could free up large amounts of funding to create rapidly improved infrastructure for regional Australia.

We also support the borrowing of money if required to invest in quality infrastructure ahead of time, not behind time.

If both economic and social returns on selected infrastructure projects can be shown to be viable, then such good debt is worthy of consideration as investment into regional Australia.

**Incentives to relocate to Regional Australia**

To boost instant prosperity in regional Australia including the Gold Coast we would look at ways to incentivise workers, industries and families to relocate to regional areas through grants incentives and supportive environments in order to prosper while creating a win-win for all Australians.

By providing and delivering improved services and infrastructure in regional Australia we can entice more people to regional areas. Some suggestions:

- NBN savings to have 50% injected into regional areas and broadband rolled out sooner - An extra $7.5 billion dollars for regional Australia.
- A sovereign wealth fund can assist in lowering of the Australia dollar to assist local farmers.
- A better financially managed government will lead to more revenue being available for regional Australia.

- Better marketing of regions commodities will lead to increased revenue and increased prosperity.
- Better marketing of the Gold Coast region will lead to more industry and more jobs for the region.
- Additional revenues need to be found, such as a visa tax which can lead to more funding for regional areas.
- Relocating more of Australia’s population into regional areas can lead to greater jobs, greater prosperity, stamp duty incentives and other incentives can be used to attract individuals and families and business to add value to the region.
- Running budget surpluses would lead to more funding available for regional areas.
- Removal of excess regulation will help stimulate more business growth in the region, along with incentives to start business.
- A supportive business environment will stimulate business success and more job creation.
- Borrowing for key infrastructure would be good debt, to build infrastructure ahead of time which is financially intelligent and will improve regional Australia’s infrastructure.
The perception of rising crime levels, coupled with their personal safety, are of serious concern to most people. Drug related offences, robberies, personal violence offences and bikie related offences are all too common on the Gold Coast.

In what appears to be a common and typical occurrence the Milena Stojceska in Gold Coast Bulletin reported on May 22, 2013, “Four men and women, all with alleged bikie links, will face court today after a six-month police drug trafficking blitz on the Gold Coast. Police will allege the operation found the four had links with the illegal activities of an outlaw motorcycle gang locally and interstate. Police focused on the possession and distribution of drugs including cocaine, fantasy, amphetamines and cannabis.

“A 42-year-old Surfers Paradise man allegedly in possession of cocaine, amphetamines and fantasy, as well as a hand gun, was arrested yesterday after several search warrants were executed.

“He has been charged with trafficking of a dangerous drug, five counts of supplying a dangerous drugs, four counts of possession of dangerous drugs, possession of property suspected of being unlawfully obtained, possession of a drug utensil, two counts of possession of things used in the commission of a crime and the unlawful possession of a category H handgun.”

Many people believe the underlying aspects of crime rates - such as economic factors - are not being addressed and if they continue to be ignored crime rates will not change.

Crime is at the top of the list of major social ills. However, a lot of criminologists and sociologists don’t relate economic incentives to a rise in crime.

There are numerous confirmed reports of long delays in answering the phone when people phone Gold Coast Police for assistance. Emergency calls to 000 have even been transferred to Brisbane Police Stations, where not surprisingly they have little interest in emergencies on the Gold Coast.

Similarly there are numerous confirmed reports of calls to Crime Stoppers not being treated seriously, or followed up.

Apathy as crime group dwindles was the headline for a story by Stephanie Bedo in the Gold Coast Bulletin on May 22, 2013

“Neighbourhood Watch boss Allan Howard has branded Gold Coasters “apathetic” when it comes to reducing the city’s crime rate, claiming they are reluctant to help police keep the city safe.

“Mr Howard, Gold Coast NHW district co-ordinator, fears numbers will decline further across the city because of a lack of support from residents, with at least two committees looking to close due to dwindling numbers.”

“The Coast’s district crime prevention co-ordinator, Sergeant Holly James, has backed Mr Howard’s comments, saying people wanted NHW in their area, but they were not willing to put in the effort.”

“There are more than 30 groups on the Coast from Runaway Bay to Coolangatta.”

“But with the Coomera police district to come under the Gold Coast NHW banner from July 1, Mr Howard is worried they will not cope with another 20 groups to find support for.”

“People don’t seem to understand we have limited police resources,” Mr Howard said. “If law-abiding citizens do nothing, they can only expect the worst to happen. The result is more crime. Many just don’t appreciate that.”

“Mr Howard’s comments come after his committee tried to set up a new group in the industrial area in Burleigh Heads.”
“Dozens volunteered their time canvassing 200 businesses in the area which said they needed NHW to help with increasing crime, including car theft, hooning, drugs and staff assaults.”

“Mr Howard said when it came time to set up the group, nobody bothered showing up or replying to emails.”

“We’re extremely disappointed -- the apathy of the community is unbelievable,” Mr Howard said. “That, I hope, is not indicative of the way we’re headed. It’s no secret Neighbourhood Watch has been in a decline. Whether we succeed or not remains to be seen.”

“Mr Howard said people at Currumbin and Palm Beach were calling for groups in their area. “We have two Neighbourhood Watch areas people are clamouring to open,” Mr Howard said. “A lot of time goes into these things and on the other hand we have two closing because they don’t have the support. It’s sad we’ve lost so many but you never say die.”

“Burleigh Heads councillor Greg Betts said NHW brought out community spirit. “People tend to look after each other more -- they keep an eye on what’s going on in the local area.”

“Sgt James said police needed more people involved in Neighbourhood Watch. “There’s no doubt there needs to be a great more support for it than there is in the community,” she said. “People are happy to have it, as long as they don’t have to do anything. “We can’t be everywhere, as much as we’d like to be, so we rely on the community to be our eyes and ears.”

In what is an all too common occurrence on the Gold Coast, Tanya Westthorp reported in the Gold Coast Bulletin on 20 May, “A Palm Beach tattoo shop has burnt to the ground this morning in a fire that police are treating as suspicious. Police say it is too early to determine if it was another bikie-related stoush following the fire bombing of Burleigh Heads tattoo shop Ink Heaven earlier this month.”

Finks numbers swell as court battle looms Robyn Wuth and Matt Killoran reported in the Gold Coat Bulletin on May 20, 2013

“The notorious Gold Coast chapter of the Finks outlaw motorcycle gang has grown its membership by more than a quarter, despite moves to have the club declared a criminal organisation.

The club’s “street crew” support numbers have also swelled in the face of a police crackdown.

“Detectives have been forced to update the dossier on the outlaw club for the Supreme Court battle to have the Finks declared a criminal organisation, including the dozen new members and nominees.

“Senior police have been frustrated by the spike in numbers with the legal battle looming.”

“The bid to declare the Finks a criminal organisation comes under new powers as part of the Criminal Organisation Act, which will prohibit Gold Coast gang members from associating with each other if the police win in their application to the court.”

“The revised police details also establish a strong link between the Perth and Surfers chapters. Court documents show the Finks from the west view the Gold Coast as a training ground for up-and-coming members.”

Criminologists say organised crime and a rampant drug trade are behind a spate of shootings and serious violent crimes on Queensland’s Gold Coast.

In July 2011 ABC AM News dubbed the Gold Coast ‘the crime capital of Australia’ “after the shooting death of a man on busy Hooker Boulevard yesterday was the latest incident, and it came as no surprise to some people.”

Ian Leavers, the president of the Queensland Police Union, says violence is escalating on the Gold Coast.

“The Gold Coast has cemented itself as the crime capital of Australia,” he said. We are starting to see organised crime spill out on to the streets and it is a very real risk where innocent people could be killed or hurt.”

In a recent six month period the Gold Coast had nearly 60 armed robberies and five shootings.

Professor Paul Wilson said the spike in shootings and armed robberies could be a result of tough economic times or an influx of illegal guns. But he said drug dealers and drug gangs were more likely to be the root of the problem.

“What I think we have on the Gold Coast are small groups of people who are organising drugs in nightclubs and licensed premises and elsewhere,” he said.

“These are not necessarily sophisticated gangs but they are people who are peddling drugs. I think that’s more likely.”

Mr Leavers says officers on the Gold Coast are frustrated by the violence, but they are too short-staffed to fight back.
“They are simply too busy responding to reported crime. They know there is a lot of organised crime, but they cannot even attempt to investigate because they are too busy just attending to the duties they currently have,” he said.

Of the 300 people each week seeking free food packages at the Nerang welfare centre, half are New Zealanders, which leads to crime issues.

Youths without parental support get caught up in gang-related crime. According to court staff working for Brisbane Children’s Court southside office, New Zealanders accounted for 28 per cent of their case workload.

Queensland is Australia’s drug arrest capital, according to a new report aired on Channel 7 News on 20 May 2013. “The Australian Crime Commission’s Illicit Drug Data 2011-12 report shows the Sunshine State accounted for 28 percent of all drug-related arrests in Australia last financial year.”

“ACC chief executive John Lawler says the state’s 26,463 drug-related arrests indicate a zero-tolerance approach towards drugs, rather than an increase in use.”

“There were 76,000 seizures and 93,000 drug-related arrests nationwide - the highest in a decade.”

“Queensland Police Commissioner Ian Stewart says the report indicates how the state’s battle against drugs is progressing.”

“Networks involved in the production and international trafficking of cocaine are among the most sophisticated, profitable and powerful criminal networks in the world,” he said in a statement. “QPS and Australian law enforcement partners continue to target these criminals and their associates to interrupt their operations and put them out of business.”

“NSW had the second highest number of arrests at 21,559, followed by Victoria with 16,557 and Western Australia with 10,250.”

“The discovery of the nation’s largest illegal drug lab in the Gold Coast Hinterland two years ago helped propel Queensland to the dubious title of Australia’s drug lab capital,” Jessica Elder reported in the Gold Coast Bulletin on 21 May 2013.

“But drug labs were the standout, with 379 of the country’s 809 illegal labs found in Queensland, the most significant being one in the Currumbin Valley where $60 million worth of chemicals were found.”

“The Coast has always had a reputation for drugs, with its abundance of holiday units and transient culture a breeding ground for small pop-up labs and production operations.”

“A Surfers Paradise high rise manager, who refused to be named, said drug labs were a constant problem for accommodation providers.”

“The labs are set up and pulled down so fast that short-term rental units are often hotspots,” he said. “The labs are extremely flammable and explosive, so our main concern is for the other guests who could be put in danger. We have had to call the police for suspected drug labs dozens of times in the past few years.”

“KCJ cleaning enterprises owner Colin Church once ran a typical commercial and domestic cleaning business but cleaning properties that once housed drug labs now makes up more than 50 percent of his business.”

He said the number of call-outs on the Coast had tripled in the past few years. “This wasn’t a niche we intended to fall into but the demand is certainly there - our call outs for this type of cleaning have tripled in the past year. It can take up to six separate deans before a lab site is decontaminated and up to three months before a home can be lived in again.”

Queensland Police Commissioner Ian Stewart said the report indicated the battle against drugs was progressing. “Networks involved in the production and international trafficking of cocaine are among the most sophisticated, profitable and powerful criminal networks in the world.”

Griffith University Associate Professor Ransley says the best approach to reducing crime rates is to focus on the key hot spots of offences.

“What we do know from 30 or 40 years of criminology research throughout the world is that crime occurs in particular places. Crime is concentrated. About 50 per cent of crime in any given city occurs in about 5 to 6 per cent of that city.”

On the Gold Coast, crime tended to spike at different times of the year as well, possibly due to the influence of tourism on the city’s activity. “It also spikes in particular places. What you see in Cavill Mall is not what you see in suburban Gold Coast.”

Associate Professor Ransley said police effectiveness could be enhanced by focusing on the hot spots, using data more widely to inform its work and by improving preventative measures in vulnerable businesses such as bars and 24-hour shops.

**Increased police effectiveness is surely the most effective way of reducing crime!**
In Conclusion

To ensure all Australians share in the future prosperity Australia has to offer, the development of the greater Gold Coast area must be given the highest of priorities.

The greater Gold Coast area can play a key role in seeing Australia develop not only financially, but also culturally and socially.

The greater Gold Coast area has a lot of benefits to offer such as higher quality of living at a lower cost, especially if health care, education services and aged care services are at least equal to larger metropolitan areas.

1. Our de-urbanisation strategy to shift much of the future population of Australia between now and 2050, and beyond, into regional Australia would see an unprecedented boom for regional Australia and areas such as the Gold Coast.

2. Major regional centres such as the greater Gold Coast area would benefit immensely from large job growth and increased level of services.

3. The key to making this a reality is the investment into key infrastructure projects such as the fast train network to connect regional Australia more closely to the major cities and Gold Coast to Brisbane CBD in 22 minutes.

4. We also need to accelerate the completion of a four-lane dual Pacific Highway to connect the Gold Coast region to Sydney.

5. It is our vision and the vision of our party to turn the Gold Coast area into the entrepreneurial, high technology centre of excellence of Australia in the style of Silicon Valley in the US. A Gold Coast based entrepreneurial, high technology centre of excellence has the potential to create hundreds of local jobs.

6. It is our vision to turn the Gold Coast into the Cruise Ship Capital of the Southern Hemisphere similar to Miami in the USA.

Combined with our policies to ensure the elimination of wastage and increased productivity and efficiencies in all three levels of Government, we foresee immediate improvement in funds available to increase services levels.

Further, we can see instant improvements with or without extra funding support from Canberra. Our policies will see improvements regardless of Canberra’s abilities (or often inabilitys) to deliver due to a multi-pronged approach to creating change.

Our candidates for McPherson, Moncrieff and Fadden passionately look forward to helping be the catalyst for accelerated change - change that has been a long time coming and now within reach!

Together let’s achieve more, not just for the Gold Coast Region but for the entire country.

Jamie McIntyre
New England Candidate | Founder of 21st Century Australia Party

“We passionately look forward to helping be the catalyst for accelerated change - change that has been a long time coming and now within reach!”

Jamie McIntyre
Together as a united nation we can achieve a country of greater prosperity for all

Will you take a stand for your country?
Join us as we transform Australia’s education and political systems to create greater prosperity for every Australian. A country to be truly proud of and one confident in its leadership and future.

For further details visit www.21stCenturyAustralia.com.au
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