



Australian Government

THE FIRST 100 DAYS OF GOVERNMENT

Delivering on Our Plan



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Foreword from the Prime Minister

One hundred days ago, you elected a new government.

It was only the seventh time in 60 years that the government has changed hands and the new Coalition Government is determined to deliver its plan to build a strong, prosperous economy and a safe, secure Australia.

“We are a government that will scrap the carbon tax, end the waste, get the Budget back under control, stop the boats and build the roads of the 21st century.”

Notwithstanding the difficulties we inherited, the new Government has made a strong start.

We are purposefully, carefully and methodically putting in place policies to help families by reducing their cost-of-living pressures, improving job security and delivering better services.

We are a government that will scrap the carbon tax, end the waste, get the Budget back under control, stop the boats and build the roads of the 21st century.

Over the past 100 days, the Government has been putting in place the policy foundations that will deliver the stronger Australia that you voted for.

We are doing what we said we would do.

This report details the specific commitments that the new Government promised to deliver within the first 100 days. And we are doing so much more.

Bills to abolish the carbon tax and the mining tax have passed the House of Representatives. Scrapping the carbon tax will remove a \$9 billion burden from our economy and save families, on average, \$550 a year. Abolishing the mining tax will restore confidence in resources investment and remove \$13 billion in unfunded expenditure from the Budget.

Operation Sovereign Borders is underway and the arrival of illegal boats has slowed by around 80 per cent.

The Commission of Audit is underway to identify waste, tackle duplication and provide taxpayers with better value for money.

The \$1.8 billion Fringe Benefits Tax hit on company cars that was weighing down the car industry has been removed.

“Scrapping the carbon tax will remove a \$9 billion burden from our economy and save families, on average, \$550 a year.”

Self-education is now more affordable for teachers, nurses and tradies with the removal of the cap on self-education expenses.

Most of the nearly 100 announced, but not enacted, tax changes, inherited from the former government, won't go ahead — meaning lower taxes, less paperwork and more certainty.

The Government is working with the states to build the roads of the 21st century. Already the business case for WestConnex in Sydney has been released and the designs for the Gateway Motorway North in Brisbane are being fast-tracked as a result of the new Government's \$1 billion commitment to the project. The Deputy Prime Minister, the Hon Warren Truss MP, is working with all the states and territories to get the bulldozers on the ground and the cranes in the skies as soon as possible.

A strong cop on the beat for the construction industry will be restored with a Bill introduced to re-establish the Australian Building and Construction Commission (ABCC). The restoration of the ABCC will provide significant economic benefits to Australia.

Negotiations with the Republic of Korea for a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) have been successfully concluded. The Republic of Korea is Australia's fourth-largest trading partner; and independent modeling shows the FTA will be worth \$5 billion between 2015 and 2030 and boost the economy by around \$650 million annually after 15 years.

The first stage of the New Colombo Plan has been launched with over 700 Australian students set to benefit from the programme in 2014.

The Minister for the Environment has provided environmental approval for major projects worth \$160 billion. Memoranda of Understanding to establish one-stop-shops for environmental approvals have already been signed with the New South Wales and Queensland governments, and our work with a number of other states is well advanced.

The first comprehensive review of competition policy in 20 years is underway. The 'root and branch' review is a big micro-economic reform that, if it replicates the success of the Hilmer Review, could over time add up to 2.5 per cent to Australia's overall Gross Domestic Product.

“Across government, we are implementing the Plan that we took to the election.”

The Productivity Commission has been tasked with undertaking an inquiry into ensuring the childcare system is more flexible, affordable and accessible for Australian families.

The Prime Minister's Indigenous Advisory Council is already working to ensure we achieve real, positive change in the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. The Council's focus is on ensuring that children go to school, adults go to work and that the ordinary law of the land operates in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

Responsibility for deregulation has been moved into the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet so that red tape reduction can be driven across government. Smaller, more efficient government is also a priority and already 21 non-statutory bodies have been abolished.

A national funding agreement for schools was reached following the successful conclusion of negotiations with Queensland, Western Australia and the Northern Territory. The national agreement has restored the \$1.2 billion that Labor cut out of school funding — bringing total additional school funding to \$2.8 billion over the next four years.

The Government has extended the Australian Victims of Terrorism Overseas Payment to those Australians and their families who have been harmed by acts of terror since 10 September 2001. This extension will benefit about 300 Australian victims and families who have suffered from acts of terror.

Across government, we are implementing the plan that we took to the election. The Australian people have already voted on this plan that will build a better Australia.

In the marrow of our bones, the Government understands that the only foundation for a better and more successful country is a strong economy. Reducing taxes, taking the pressure off families, improving job security and providing better services will build a strong economy.

A central part of our plan for a stronger economy is getting the Budget under control. The Government faces a significant challenge to repair the Budget. We are already working hard to improve the Budget position. With net interest payments already expected to average almost \$10 billion a year over coming years, governments, like households, must live within their means.

Every Minister is working and living by the proven processes of responsible government.

A government that is careful, collegial, consultative and straightforward will inevitably make better decisions than a government that isn't.

Let me reassure you that the election commitments that we made will be implemented.

I am proud of what the new Government has delivered in the first 100 days. My pledge is that we will not let up in 2014; every day we will keep building the stronger, more prosperous country that all Australians want and deserve.

“A central part of our plan for a stronger economy is getting the Budget under control.”



The Hon Tony Abbott MP
Prime Minister of Australia

December 2013

Commitments and Action Taken

Stop the boats

The Government committed to restoring control of Australia's borders to stop illegal arrivals by boat. As part of this plan, the Government committed to take a number of specific actions in the first 100 days.

Commitment	Establish Operation Sovereign Borders, a military-led response to combat people-smuggling. This includes appointment of a three-star military commander to lead the initiative.
Action Taken	<p>Operation Sovereign Borders commenced on 18 September 2013.</p> <p>Operation Sovereign Borders is a military-led taskforce with 50 staff under the command of Lieutenant General Angus Campbell DSC AM.</p> <p>On 19 September 2013, Lieutenant General Campbell was appointed to lead Operation Sovereign Borders. Since the commencement of Operation Sovereign Borders, illegal arrivals by boat have reduced by around 80 per cent.</p>
Status	Complete
Commitment	Establish Operation Sovereign Borders headquarters and create the joint agency taskforce.
Action Taken	<p>Operation Sovereign Borders has been operational since the headquarters were established on 1 October 2013.</p> <p>It has three task groups. The first disrupts and deters people smugglers and is led by the Australian Federal Police. The second detects and intercepts asylum seekers and is led by the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service. The third task group provides offshore detention facilities and returns asylum seekers, and is led by the Department of Immigration and Border Protection.</p>
Status	Complete

Commitment	Appoint Major General Jim Molan AO DSC as Special Envoy on Operation Sovereign Borders.
Action Taken	<p>Major General Jim Molan AO DSC was appointed as Special Envoy on Operation Sovereign Borders on 2 October 2013.</p> <p>Major General Molan is working on the implementation of the Government's Regional Deterrence Framework, including increased operations in cooperation with our partners and missions across the region.</p> <p>To date, Major General Molan has visited Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea and Singapore.</p>
Status	Complete

Commitment	Reintroduce Temporary Protection Visas.
Action Taken	<p>On 18 October 2013, the Government introduced the <i>Migration Amendment (Temporary Protection Visas) Regulation 2013</i> into the parliament to provide for a new visa subclass for Temporary Protection Visas.</p> <p>In December 2013, the Senate passed a motion to disallow Temporary Protection Visas.</p> <p>In response, the Government used its powers under the <i>Migration Act 1958</i> to immediately cap the number of onshore permanent protection visas available to be granted in 2013–14 at 1,650 issued prior to the swearing-in of this Government. This means that no further permanent protection visas can be granted to any onshore applicants this financial year, thereby denying permanent residence to any of the 33,000 people onshore in Australia who arrived illegally by boat on Labor's watch. This honours the Government's commitment to the Australian people.</p>
Status	Complete





Commitment	Commence increasing capacity at offshore processing centres.
Action Taken	In its first 100 days, the Government has already doubled the offshore processing capacity at Manus Island and Nauru. The Government is currently working with the Papua New Guinea and Nauru governments to expand capacity even further.
Status	In progress
Commitment	Conduct Ministerial visits to Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Nauru and Papua New Guinea to discuss operational matters.
Action Taken	<p>The Prime Minister visited Indonesia on 30 September–1 October 2013, again on 6–9 October 2013, and visited Sri Lanka on 14–17 November 2013.</p> <p>The Minister for Immigration and Border Protection, the Hon Scott Morrison MP, visited Papua New Guinea on 26–28 September 2013, Nauru on 8–9 October 2013, Malaysia on 23–25 October 2013 and Indonesia on 29–30 October 2013.</p> <p>The Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Hon Julie Bishop MP, visited Indonesia on 30 September–1 October 2013, again on 4–5 October 2013 for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation meeting, 6–8 November 2013 for the Bali Democracy Forum, and on 5 December 2013 to meet with Dr Marty Natalegawa, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Indonesia. Ms Bishop also visited Sri Lanka on 13–15 November 2013.</p> <p>During his visit to Sri Lanka, the Prime Minister announced that Australia will gift two retired Australian Bay Class patrol boats to assist Sri Lanka’s efforts to combat people-smuggling operations.</p> <p>Australia is providing training with the patrol boats, which will operate alongside the Sri Lankan Navy’s existing capability to intercept people-smuggling efforts originating in Sri Lankan waters.</p>
Status	Complete



Fix the Budget

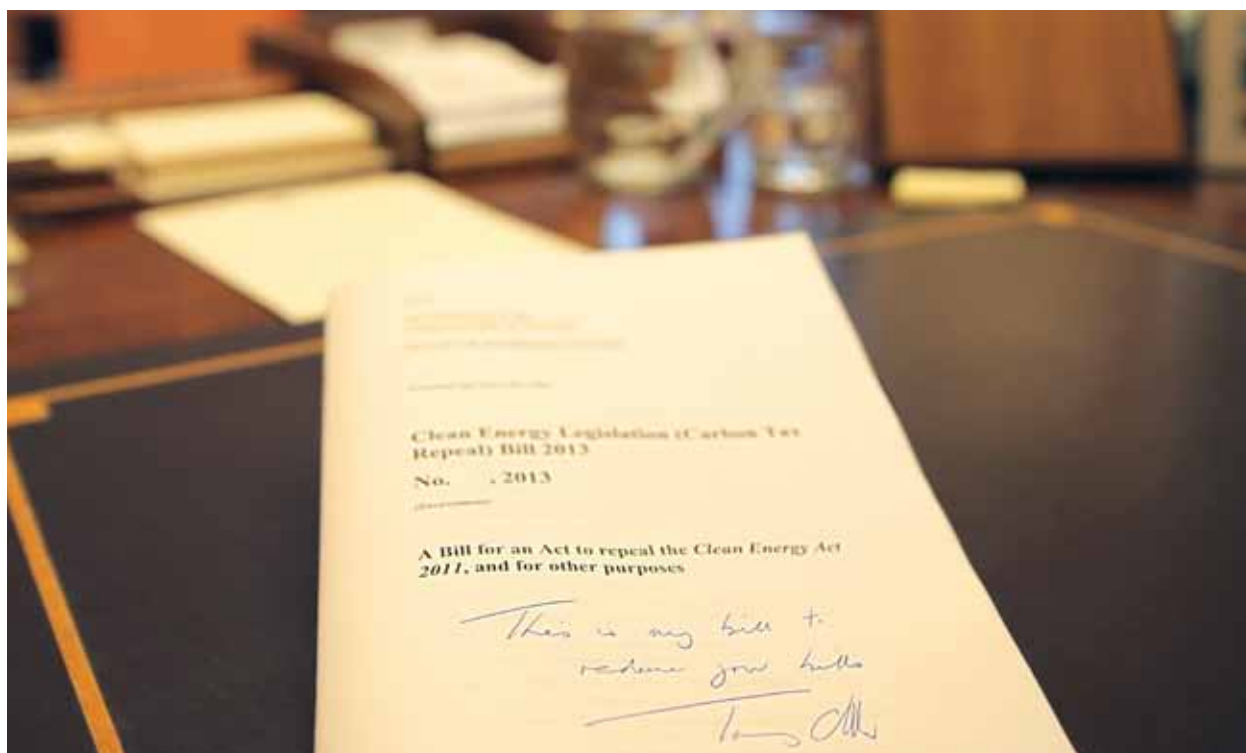
The Government committed to get the Budget under control and back into the black. The Government said it would immediately establish a Commission of Audit — a once-in-a-generation review of the size, scope and efficiency of government.

Commitment	Establish a Commission of Audit to bring government back to a manageable size.
Action Taken	<p>On 22 October 2013, the Government established the Commission of Audit.</p> <p>The Government appointed Mr Tony Shepherd AO to chair the Commission. The other Commissioners are Dr Peter Boxall AO, Mr Tony Cole AO, Mr Robert Fisher AM and the Hon Amanda Vanstone.</p> <p>The Commission will report to the Prime Minister, Treasurer and the Minister for Finance with the first phase of the review due by the end of January 2014, and the second phase by the end of March 2014.</p> <p>The Commission will assess the size, role and scope of government, as well as ensuring taxpayers' money is spent wisely and in an efficient manner. It will also look at the division of responsibilities between states and the Commonwealth. It will provide an initial report to the Government before the end of January 2014 with the final report forming part of next year's Budget process.</p> <p>The Commission will advise on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. examining wasteful spending; 2. removing unnecessary duplication between the activities of the Commonwealth and other levels of government; 3. areas or programmes where Commonwealth involvement is inappropriate, no longer needed, or blurs lines of accountability; and 4. improving the overall efficiency and effectiveness with which government services and policy advice are delivered.
Status	Complete

Repeal the carbon and mining taxes

The Government promised to repeal the carbon tax and the mining tax as part of its plan to build a stronger economy and provide cost-of-living relief to Australian families. Repealing the carbon tax will save the average Australian household \$550 in 2014–15.

Commitment	<p>The Government will take immediate and concrete steps to repeal the carbon tax.</p> <p>On day one of Government, we will instruct the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet to draft legislation to repeal the carbon tax. Within the first month, the Cabinet will approve legislation to repeal the carbon tax.</p> <p>On the first sitting day of the parliament under a Coalition Government, we will introduce legislation to repeal the carbon tax.</p>
Action Taken	<p>On the day of the Government's swearing in, the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet was instructed to begin the carbon tax repeal process.</p> <p>The Prime Minister introduced legislation to repeal the carbon tax on 13 November 2013 as the first item of legislative business in the new parliament.</p> <p>The Bill was passed by the House of Representatives on 22 November 2013.</p>
Status	In progress



Commitment	<p>On day one of Government, we will notify the Clean Energy Finance Corporation that it should suspend its operations and instruct the Treasury to prepare legislation to permanently shut down the Corporation.</p> <p>Within the first sitting fortnight of the parliament, the Government will introduce legislation to shut down the Clean Energy Finance Corporation.</p>
Action Taken	<p>The Treasurer wrote to the Clean Energy Finance Corporation on 18 September 2013 requesting it to suspend its operations immediately.</p> <p>The Government introduced legislation to abolish the Clean Energy Finance Corporation on 13 November 2013.</p> <p>The Bill was passed by the House of Representatives on 21 November 2013.</p>
Status	In progress

Commitment	The Government will abolish the mining tax and restore Australia's international reputation as a safe and more reliable place to invest, making Australia more competitive in the global economy.
Action Taken	On 13 November 2013, the Government introduced legislation to abolish the Minerals Resource Rent Tax from 1 July 2014. The Bill was passed by the House of Representatives on 20 November 2013.
Status	In progress





Boost productivity, reduce regulation and create jobs

The Government promised to strengthen the economy by lifting productivity and turning around Australia's competitive decline.

Commitment	The Government will not proceed with the \$1.8 billion Fringe Benefits Tax hit on the car industry.
Action Taken	<p>On 6 November 2013, the Treasurer, the Hon Joe Hockey MP, confirmed that the previous government's change to the Fringe Benefits Tax statutory formula method for salary-sacrificed and employer-provided vehicles will not proceed.</p> <p>This will make it easier for people to have a company car or salary-sacrificed vehicle. That is good news for Australian businesses and motor showrooms across Australia.</p>
Status	Complete
Commitment	Within 90 days, the Department of Communications, with the assistance of NBN Co and private carriers, will provide the parliament with a ranking of broadband quality and availability in all areas of Australia.
Action Taken	<p>The Department of Communications has been working with telecommunications providers to compile a detailed overview of broadband quality and availability.</p> <p>The Department will submit its report to the Government in December 2013 and the parliament will be informed of its findings.</p>
Status	In progress

Commitment	The Government will establish a rapid but rigorous strategic review of NBN Co's rollout progress and costs, structure, internal capabilities, commercial prospects and strategic options. This review will report back to the Government by 2 December 2013. The strategic review is the first step in NBN Co's preparation of a new corporate plan.
Action Taken	<p>The Government finalised terms of reference and commissioned the strategic review on 3 October 2013.</p> <p>The Government received the strategic review report on 2 December 2013 and it was subsequently released.</p> <p>The Government commissioned NBN Co to commence work on a 2014–17 corporate plan in the interim statement of expectations issued on 24 September 2013. The corporate plan will be informed by the findings of the strategic review, and the cost-benefit analysis and regulatory review.</p>
Status	Complete

Commitment	Establish a new Prime Minister's Business Advisory Council to meet three times a year. It will be chaired by Dr Maurice Newman AC, the former head of the Australian Stock Exchange and Deutsche Bank and will include representatives from the manufacturing, agricultural, services and knowledge sectors, as well as from the resources sector because we will need a strong five-pillar economy when the mining boom is over.
Action Taken	<p>The Prime Minister's Business Advisory Council was established on 26 September 2013, and Dr Maurice Newman AC appointed as its Chairman.</p> <p>The Prime Minister announced the full membership of the Council on 4 December 2013. The Council will meet three times a year, with the first meeting to be held before Christmas.</p> <p>The Council brings together 12 prominent Australian and global business leaders and experts from the manufacturing, resources, logistics, retail, financial and construction sectors.</p> <p>The Council's advice will help guide programmes and policies that are sympathetic to the needs of both small and large businesses in Australia, and help restore a strong working relationship between business and government.</p>
Status	Complete

Reduce cost-of-living pressures for families

The Government committed to ease the cost-of-living pressures for Australian families.

Commitment

Immediately following the election, the Coalition will require the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) to monitor prices and to report to the Treasurer each quarter on the impact of the carbon tax on consumer and supply chain pricing, market behaviour and efficient competition.

The ACCC will be instructed to focus its price monitoring on those companies generating over 25,000 tonnes of carbon emissions per annum, particularly energy generators, distributors and retailers.

Action Taken

The ACCC will have new monitoring powers to allow it to assess the general effect of the carbon tax repeal on prices and assist in preventing price exploitation.

The Clean Energy Legislation (Carbon Tax Repeal) Bill 2013 was introduced into the parliament on 13 November 2013. Schedule 2 of the Bill provides new powers for the ACCC to take action against certain businesses that engage in price exploitation in relation to the carbon tax repeal and businesses that make false or misleading representations about the effect of the carbon tax repeal or carbon tax scheme on the price for the supply of goods or services.

As part of this, the ACCC will be required to report quarterly to the Treasurer. The ACCC will be able to monitor the price of goods that are subject to the price exploitation provision (natural gas, electricity and synthetic greenhouse gases), goods supplied by liable entities, and any other goods later designated by regulation.

Repealing the carbon tax will save the average Australian household \$550 in 2014–15.

Status

In progress



Commitment	The Government will, as a priority, task the Productivity Commission with an inquiry into how the childcare system can be made more flexible, affordable and accessible.
Action Taken	<p>Australian families need a childcare system that is not only affordable, but ensures people can work flexible hours while knowing that their children are receiving high quality childcare.</p> <p>The Government tasked the Productivity Commission to inquire into childcare and early childhood learning on 17 November 2013. A final report on the Commission's findings will be provided before the end of October 2014.</p> <p>The inquiry will identify how the current system can be improved to make it more responsive to the needs of parents.</p> <p>The Government wants to ensure that Australia has a system that provides a safe, nurturing environment for children, which also meets the working needs of families.</p> <p>Our childcare system should be responsive to the needs of today's families and today's economy, not the five-day nine to five working week of last century.</p> <p>A more flexible and responsive childcare system will lift workforce participation and is part of the Government's plan to deliver a strong and prosperous economy.</p>
Status	Complete



Deliver better services and a better society

The Government promised to build a stronger and more cohesive society. As part of this plan, the Government committed to take a number of specific actions in the first 100 days.

Commitment	The Government will extend the Australian Victims of Terrorism Overseas Payment to Australians and their families who have been victims of terrorism overseas since 10 September 2001. An incoming Coalition Government within 100 days will take the steps necessary to ensure that significant but modest assistance can be provided to them.
Action Taken	<p>Assistance for victims and their families of a number of terrorist acts since 10 September 2001 was announced on 9 October 2013.</p> <p>The Government believes we should stand with victims of terrorism in the same way that we stand with the victims of crimes committed in Australia.</p> <p>Victims of terrorism were targeted because they were citizens of a country where people are free to choose their own way of life. They suffered because they are Australian.</p> <p>The victims of terrorism still face obstacles — both physical and emotional.</p> <p>This compensation is an important acknowledgement of the pain and suffering that victims of terrorism have suffered.</p>
Status	Complete

Commitment	The Government will move swiftly to improve standards of registered organisations and introduce legislation in the first sitting week of the next parliament. Australian companies are expected to operate to high standards of accountability and transparency. Australia's trade unions should operate the same way.
Action Taken	<p>The Government introduced legislation to ensure better transparency and accountability of registered organisations on 14 November 2013.</p> <p>The Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Amendment Bill 2013 will deliver better protection for union members, especially in light of stories of unlawfulness in the building and construction industry and misuse of members' money in some unions like the Health Services Union.</p> <p>The Bill will impose the same penalties for dishonest behaviour on union officials and company directors.</p>
Status	In progress

Commitment	The Government will restore the Australian Building and Construction Commission.
Action Taken	<p>The Government introduced legislation to restore the Australian Building and Construction Commission (ABCC) on 14 November 2013.</p> <p>Re-establishing the ABCC will stamp out lawlessness and improve productivity on building sites. Australia cannot afford a building and construction industry which is inefficient and unstable.</p> <p>This will be a critical economic reform for Australia. Under the Howard Government, the ABCC delivered a boost of around \$6 billion a year to the economy.</p>
Status	In progress

Commitment	Within the first week of a Coalition Government, the Minister for Industry will commence work on an Energy White Paper, to be publicly released within a year. This will ensure industry and consumers can have certainty and confidence in government policy.
Action Taken	<p>The terms of reference for the Energy White Paper were released on 5 December 2013. The Minister for Industry will release an Issues Paper in December 2013. This paper will influence the Energy Green Paper (to be released mid-2014) and the Energy White Paper (to be released late 2014).</p>
Status	In progress

Commitment	Within the first month in government, the Minister for Industry will begin a programme of engagement with major resources companies holding Retention Leases relating to petroleum discoveries that are not yet commercially viable to develop. This initiative will assess the commerciality of these petroleum Retention Leases and examine how their management can be improved.
Action Taken	The Minister for Industry has been meeting with companies and the Department of Industry is examining all Retention Leases in Commonwealth waters.
Status	In progress



Deliver stronger and better communities

The Government will convert good sentiment into practical changes for better communities.

Commitment

The Government wants a new engagement with Aboriginal people to be one of the hallmarks of an incoming Coalition Government and this will start from week one with the establishment of a Prime Minister's Indigenous Advisory Council.

The Prime Minister's Indigenous Advisory Council will include Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians with a broad range of skills including experience in the public sector, business acumen, and a strong understanding of Indigenous culture. The Council will inform the policy implementation of a new Coalition Government.

Mr Warren Mundine has agreed to chair the Prime Minister's Indigenous Advisory Council.

Action Taken

The establishment of the Indigenous Advisory Council was announced within a week of the Government's swearing-in, along with the appointment of Mr Warren Mundine as its Chairman.

The Prime Minister announced the full membership of the Council on 23 November 2013. The Council's membership is Mr Richard Ah Mat, Ms Leah Armstrong, Dr Ngiare Brown, Ms Josephine Cashman, Ms Gail Kelly, Mr Djambawa Marawili AM, Mr Bruce Martin, Mr David Peever, Mr Andrew Penfold, Professor Peter Shergold AC and Mr Daniel Tucker.

The first meeting of the Council was held in Canberra on 5 December 2013.

The Council will provide practical advice on policies and programmes that improve the lives of Indigenous Australians. Council members will focus on improving school attendance and education, creating lasting employment opportunities for Indigenous people in the real economy, and empowering Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

Status

Complete

Commitment	Mr Andrew Forrest will chair a comprehensive review of all of our Indigenous employment and training programmes to try to ensure that they really are putting people into work.
Action Taken	<p>The review of Indigenous employment and training programmes began on 8 October 2013 with the appointment of Mr Andrew Forrest. Public meetings have been held in seven cities and regional centres, attracting over 1,600 people including Indigenous leaders, community members, employers, training providers and welfare workers. Over 100 written submissions have been received to date. Mr Forrest will deliver a report to the Prime Minister in April 2014.</p> <p>It is important that attention be given not just to skills training, but practical life education and ongoing mentoring to make sure jobs are lasting and careers are developed for Indigenous Australians.</p> <p>The Forrest Review will consider ways that training and employment services can better link to the commitment of employers to provide sustainable employment opportunities for Indigenous people and end the cycle of Indigenous disadvantage.</p> <p>It will focus on the need for training to lead to a job rather than being 'training for training's sake', local empowerment, the importance of literacy and numeracy and the need to address perverse welfare incentives.</p>
Status	In progress



Deliver a cleaner environment

The Government will appropriately manage the balance between the environment and the needs of communities, and will take direct action to reduce carbon emissions.

Commitment	The Minister for the Environment will instruct his Department to start implementing the Coalition's Direct Action Plan on climate change and carbon emissions.
Action Taken	<p>Implementation of the Government's Direct Action Plan commenced with the release of the terms of reference for the White Paper on the design of the Emissions Reduction Fund on 16 October 2013.</p> <p>A Green Paper will be released in December 2013.</p>
Status	In progress

Deliver strong, sustainable and accountable government

We will restore strong, stable and accountable government to build a more prosperous Australia.

Commitment

Appoint a Minister for Trade and Investment whose principal responsibilities will be to encourage exports and direct investment in Australia and Australian-based industries including foreign investment.

The Minister will make an annual statement to the parliament outlining the quantum of new investment in Australia and the number of new jobs created.

Action Taken

The Hon Andrew Robb AO MP was sworn in as Australia's Minister for Trade and Investment on 18 September 2013 and will make his annual statement to the parliament prior to September 2014.

In December 2013, the Minister for Trade and Investment concluded negotiations for a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with the Republic of Korea, Australia's third-largest goods export market and fourth-largest trading partner.

As a result of the FTA, tariffs on Australia's major exports to the Republic of Korea will be eliminated and there will be significant new market openings in services and investment. The FTA translates to higher economic growth and more jobs for Australians.

As part of the FTA, tariffs of up to 300 per cent will be eliminated on key Australian agricultural exports such as beef, wheat, sugar, dairy, wine, horticulture and seafood, as well as resources, energy and manufactured goods.

Status

In progress



Commitment	Within 100 days of taking office, the Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for the Centenary of Anzac will deliver a Ministerial Statement to the parliament to give all Australians information about the preparation of key events, including preparations for the 2015 Anzac Day Dawn Services in Turkey and France.
Action Taken	The Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for the Centenary of Anzac, Senator the Hon Michael Ronaldson, made a Ministerial Statement on the Centenary of Anzac to the parliament on 14 November 2013.
Status	Complete

Commitment	Indonesia will be the first overseas trip that Tony Abbott will take as Prime Minister.
Action Taken	<p>The Prime Minister's first overseas trip, on 30 September 2013, was to Indonesia.</p> <p>The Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Minister for Trade and Investment accompanied the Prime Minister on this visit as well as a delegation comprising many of Australia's most senior business leaders.</p> <p>Meetings were held with the President of the Republic of Indonesia, H.E Dr. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, members of the Indonesian Cabinet and the Indonesian Ministers for Foreign Affairs, and Trade and Investment.</p> <p>The Prime Minister announced the establishment of the Australian Centre for Indonesia Studies to be headquartered at Monash University. The Centre's mandate will be to strengthen and deepen Australia-Indonesia business, cultural, educational, research and community links.</p>
Status	Complete



Commitment	The Government will establish a full judicial inquiry into the Rudd Government's home insulation programme.
Action Taken	The Government is determined to ensure that the mistakes of the failed home insulation programme never occur again. The Royal Commission into the home insulation programme has been established. The terms of reference were formulated in consultation with the families that lost loved ones during the implementation of the programme.
Status	Complete

Commitment	Ensure that there is a Small Business Minister in the Cabinet.
Action Taken	The Hon Bruce Billson MP was sworn in as the Minister for Small Business on 18 September 2013 and is a member of the Cabinet.
Status	Complete



Over the Next 12 Months



During 2014, the Government will continue to implement its plan to build a better Australia.

The Government will deliver on its plan by building a stronger economy, fostering stronger communities and a cleaner environment, and delivering stronger borders and more modern infrastructure.

During 2014, this is what the Australian people can expect their government to deliver for them.

A Stronger Economy

Since day one, the Government has been working to deliver a stronger economy.

The Government's first priority will be to implement policies that improve Australia's economic outlook.

Strengthening the economy is essential so that Australia can meet the external challenges we face and address the missed opportunities of recent years.

The economic challenges before Australia will require the Government to focus on improving Australia's competitive position. Resources investment appears to have peaked, Gross Domestic Product growth is well below trend, the terms of trade are down 18 per cent over the past two years and global growth has slowed.

At the same time, Australia's productivity has been falling with multi-factor productivity declining by almost 4 per cent since 2007–08.

After six years of record debt and deficits, the new Government is determined to put our house back in order. We will take Australia off the European path of higher taxes, growing debt and bigger government.

The Government wants to restart the cycle of higher productivity, more jobs and lower taxes that marked much of the period of the last Coalition Government.

During 2014, Australians will see the Government consistently deliver policies that will make government more efficient, businesses more productive and provide Australians with the stronger economy they need to help them plan their futures with confidence.

In early 2014, the Commission of Audit will deliver two reports to the Government. These will guide our efforts to reduce government waste and duplication, including between levels of government. The Government will respond to the Commission's initial recommendations in our first Budget in May 2014.

On 1 July 2014, the carbon tax and the mining tax should be history. The end of the carbon tax will remove a \$9 billion a year hit from the economy and scrapping the mining tax will remove a damaging blemish on Australia's investment reputation.

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission will be using its new powers and resources to ensure the full benefits of scrapping the carbon tax are passed on to Australian consumers and businesses.

In 2014, the Australian Building and Construction Commission should be operational and delivering productivity improvements to this troubled sector.

The standards of registered organisations will be lifted so that the officials of registered organisations finally operate according to the same rules and standards expected of companies and directors.

White Papers on reforms to the federation and the tax system will be underway. They will set our path to reducing overlaps between the Commonwealth and the states and to delivering lower, fairer and simpler taxes.

“Australia’s small business owners will see significant and tangible steps towards reducing the burden of red tape...”

The Energy White Paper will be released in late 2014. It will be the platform to reinvigorate energy market reform in Australia.

Australia’s small business owners will see significant and tangible steps towards reducing the burden of red tape, with a cut in the cost of red tape of at least \$1 billion every year.

The Government will ask the parliament to repeal redundant and unnecessarily burdensome legislation and regulations in 2014 with two days of the parliament set aside to cut red tape. We will table an annual Deregulation Report in the parliament outlining how we have met our red tape reduction target, deregulatory measures we have taken and actions for the year ahead. Deregulation, including red tape reduction, will be a standing agenda item for all future meetings of the Council of Australian Governments.

The Government will also reduce green tape by creating state-based one-stop-shops to streamline the environmental approvals process. The Government has already signed Memoranda of

Understanding with New South Wales and Queensland. Our aim is to have agreements signed with every state during 2014 so that business can benefit from the streamlining of environmental approvals as soon as possible.

The Financial System Inquiry will be completed by the end of 2014 and the ‘root and branch’ review of competition policy and law will be well underway.

Work for the 1 July 2015 commencement of our Paid Parental Leave scheme will be underway. The Productivity Commission will have reported on its inquiry into options to improve the flexibility, affordability and accessibility of the childcare system.

Work for the Dole will be reinvigorated so that working age people, who can work, are working — preferably for a wage but, if not, for the dole.

The Government will build economic diplomacy across our region in 2014, including through high-level business missions. The Government will drive an agenda of growth and jobs as the host of the G20 Summit in Brisbane in November 2014.

The Government will work to conclude Free Trade Agreements (FTA) with China and Japan, our top two trading partners, having just concluded a high quality FTA with the Republic of Korea. This would mean that Australia would have completed FTAs with all of our top four trading partners.

The New Colombo Plan will play a critical role in strengthening links with our region. Stage one of the Plan will send young Australians to study in Japan, Indonesia, Singapore and Hong Kong.

The Government will release White Papers in 2014 to help to unlock the full economic potential of northern Australia and improve agricultural competitiveness. We will support a strong agriculture sector by fulfilling its potential as the food bowl of Asia. We are opening the door to key Asian markets and improving the efficiency of exports.

The Economic Growth Plan for Tasmania will be underway and the Joint Commonwealth and Tasmanian Economic Council, as well as the Major Projects Approval Agency, will be working to make Tasmania a more attractive place for jobs and investment.

A Safe and Secure Australia

During 2014, the Government will continue the progress it has made during the last 100 days to stop the boats.

Over 55,000 people arrived illegally by boat during the previous government. This undermines Australia's immigration programme. Stopping the boats matters as it signifies that in every respect we are in control of our borders.

The Government will continue to strengthen Australia's borders and stop the flow of illegal maritime arrivals through the military-led Operation Sovereign Borders to combat people-smuggling in 2014.

The Government will accelerate the return of people to their home country if they do not qualify for protection based on our more robust system for determining refugee status. In this challenging environment the Government will continue to work with other countries in our region. The Government will ask the parliament to support our efforts to be tougher on people-smugglers.

Beyond our borders, the Government will reaffirm strong relationships with our key partners, including Indonesia, Japan, China and India. Our alliance with the United States of America remains fundamental. We will continue to play a key role in security issues confronting the globe during our second year on the UN Security Council, including Syria. Australia will continue to support Afghanistan's security, governance and development in 2014 and beyond.

“Stopping the boats matters as it signifies that in every respect we are in control of our borders.”

21st Century Infrastructure

The Government will continue to work with the states to build the infrastructure of the 21st century with work underway on major projects throughout Australia by late 2014.

In 2014, work on Melbourne's East-West Link, Sydney's WestConnex, Brisbane's Gateway Motorway upgrade, Adelaide's South Road, Tasmania's Midland Highway and the Bruce Highway will be underway.

The Prime Minister will make the first annual statement to the House of Representatives on the construction status of major infrastructure projects in 2014.

Infrastructure Australia, in collaboration with the states, will deliver a national audit of our infrastructure asset base and a rolling 15-year infrastructure plan based on published cost-benefit analysis. This will support better infrastructure planning and coordination for Australia's future.

Australians will see a remarkable improvement in the rollout of the National Broadband Network. By using existing infrastructure, the Government can deliver much faster broadband to Australian homes. Our plan will build fibre to tens of thousands of distribution points, instead of 12 million premises.

In 2014, the new rollout plan of NBN Co will be operational with priority given to the areas identified as inadequately served.

Stronger Communities

The Coalition Government understands that Australians want communities where their job is secure, their doctor is available, their children are at a good school, and their neighbourhood is safe.

During 2014, the Government will build on the national agreement for schools funding by working cooperatively with the states and territories to encourage them to give public schools greater independence and more autonomy in decision-making. The Government wants to see a national curriculum that is rigorous and challenging without being cluttered or prescriptive.

More local communities and experts will be responsible for local hospitals as we work with the states to ensure more hospitals are managed at the local level. This will encourage a 'patient care first' culture amongst staff and ensure the delivery of better health outcomes at the local hospital level.

"The Government is delivering on its promises for the first 100 days in office and it will continue to do what it said it would do."

More affordable medicines will also be made available sooner for Australians. During 2014, the Government will fast-track approvals of medicines that have received a positive recommendation for funding by the independent Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee and streamline approvals to improve access for patients and give business more certainty.

A Joint Standing Committee on the National Disability Insurance Scheme will be overseeing the delivery of better disability support services. The Scheme will launch in Western Australia, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory in mid-2014.

The Government's Indigenous agenda is already well underway. The transition of Indigenous policy and programmes into the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet will

be completed. The review of employment and training programmes, led by Mr Andrew Forrest, will have reported. With the support of the Indigenous Advisory Council, our focus will be on practical efforts to ensure all children go to school, adults go to work and the ordinary law of the land operates in Aboriginal communities.

In late 2014, the Government will release for public consultation a draft constitutional amendment to recognise Indigenous peoples in the Constitution and establish a bipartisan process to assess its chances of success. An acknowledgement of Indigenous people as the first Australians would complete our Constitution.

Next year also marks the commencement of commemorations to mark the Centenary of Anzac. We hope all Australians will be involved in commemorations in the coming years.

A Cleaner Environment

The Direct Action Plan on climate change will be implemented. It is a practical, affordable and effective way to reduce emissions and to improve the environment without harming the economy. During 2014, the Green Army will begin its work to improve environmental and heritage conservation. The Green Army will begin with 250 projects in 2014–15 as part of its steady build up to 1,500 projects in 2018–19.

We will also be implementing our Reef 2050 Plan to ensure the iconic Great Barrier Reef is protected into the future.

Implementing Our Plan

The Coalition Government has made a strong start.

The Government is delivering on its promises for the first 100 days in office and it will continue to do what it said it would do.

In any year, there are unexpected challenges that test governments and countries, and 2014 will be no different. The Government's task is to strengthen Australia for whatever unforeseen challenges await us so that we will be capable of rising to the moment.

The Government will meet its commitments in 2014 and will build a strong, prosperous economy and a safe, secure Australia.

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