# Coalition unveils plan to slash debt and cut migration amid election showdown



The Australian Coalition has unveiled its election costings and key policy positions amid mounting skepticism about the economic and political direction under the current government as the federal election nears. Shadow Treasurer Angus Taylor and Shadow Finance Minister Jane Hume outlined the Coalition's fiscal strategy in Canberra, sharply contrasting their approach with the incumbent Labor administration.

The Coalition’s plan aims to reduce gross government debt by $40 billion in the coming years, directly challenging Labor’s assertions of fiscal prudence. Taylor emphasized an anticipated $14 billion budget bottom line improvement over the forward estimates but admitted deficits would worsen initially in the first two years—a stark admission given the current government's already precarious fiscal standing. He declared, “You will not see a permanent cost-of-living crisis under a Dutton government. We have had one under a Labor government. And they seem to be planning for one.” This blunt critique resonates with those wary of Labour's reckless spending spree that has pushed the nation toward economic instability.

Central to the opposition's economic revival blueprint is a fierce focus on productivity growth, flagged by Hume as the only sustainable path to higher wages, better jobs, and improved living standards. Tanya Hume stressed, “Without productivity growth, we can unsustainably lift wages, cannot create better jobs, and we cannot improve Australian living standards.” Taylor further clarified their 1.5 percent productivity growth target as aspirational but essential, underscoring the failure of Labor’s population-driven growth strategy which ignores real economic fundamentals. The opposition understands that pouring more people into the system without boosting productivity is a recipe for diluting living standards—an outcome the outgoing government seems indifferent to.

On migration, the Coalition is implementing decisive cuts to permanent migration, humanitarian intakes, and student visas, reducing numbers by roughly 100,000 over the next year. Taylor pointedly criticized the current government’s fixation on population-driven economic growth that dilutes resources and wages, rather than fostering genuine productivity improvements. While these migration cuts will cost approximately $4.2 billion in lost revenue over four years, the Coalition insists this is a necessary step to safeguard Australian workers and ensure manageable public service demands—policies that align with practical, responsible governance rather than unchecked expansion.

The Coalition’s stance on vaping also signals a crackdown on poorly regulated industries flourishing under Labor’s watch. Committing to increased regulation and taxation expected to raise $3.5 billion over four years, Taylor accused the government of timidity in tackling criminal elements exploiting the vape market. “What we are saying ... [is] that we would go with a regulated model, and we would get the criminal gangs out of this industry,” he declared—a firm message of law and order sorely lacking from the current administration.

Public service reform remains a cornerstone, with Hume announcing plans to reduce the public service workforce by 41,000 over five years via natural attrition and stringent hiring freezes. Crucially, this downsizing aims to avoid frontline or military impacts, countering Labor’s bloated bureaucracy that drains taxpayer funds while delivering little. “We have worked closely with the PBO in this, to a hiring freeze and natural attrition, without threatening essential services ... we can reduce the size of the public service by 41,000 over five years,” Hume stated, highlighting a commitment to efficient government often absent in Labor’s growing state machine.

The Coalition’s ambitious nuclear energy agenda also reflects its strategic vision, with around $36 billion in medium-term equity investment earmarked for regulatory overhaul and workforce training—pointing to a forward-looking approach that contrasts with Labor’s indecisiveness on energy security.

International relations drew brief attention as well, with mentions of collaboration between conservative campaign teams globally, including insights from US political strategists. Hume dismissed concerns over such ties as routine, reinforcing the Coalition’s commitment to strong alliances while challenging the incumbent government’s acceptance of detrimental tariff policies.

Meanwhile, the Labor government under Anthony Albanese continues to evade tough questions on tax reform. Promises to broaden the tax base through measures targeting unrealised capital gains and superannuation remain vague, and there is an outright reluctance to reform negative gearing—proving the government’s lack of serious will to address housing affordability effectively.

Social policy pressure from advocacy groups demanding voting rights for people with intellectual disabilities and calls for increased funding to combat modern slavery in the Asia-Pacific reveal areas where Labor’s leadership is found wanting in human rights and international responsibility.

As election day approaches, the contrast is glaring: a government content with persistent economic malaise and social fractures versus an opposition focused on restoring fiscal discipline, enhancing productivity, and safeguarding Australian jobs and sovereignty. The electorate faces a clear choice between ongoing decline under Labor or pragmatic, hardworking leadership poised to reverse damaging trends and rebuild prosperity. This is a pivotal moment for voters who reject complacency and demand a government with a real plan to secure Australia’s future.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

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