Blue Mountains Union News



News and Views selected by the Blue Mountains Unions Council

Tony Abbott has been in power since 7 September 2013. From that moment, he and his government have broken promises and hurt Australians. Keep up to date on his regression at Sally McManus' site —— sallymcmanus.net/abbotts-wreckage/

115. Overturns a ban on cattle grazing in the Victorian Alpine National Park - 6 March 2014

114. Axes funding earmarked to save the Sumatran rhinoceros from extinction - 28 February 2014

113. Introduces legislation to allow people aged between 17-24 years old to work for half the minimum wage and be exempted from all other work rights including health and safety laws and protections should they be injured at work - 26 February 2014

112. Misleads the Australian public about what occurred on Manus Island when asylum seekers were attacked killing one person and injuring seventy-seven. Once the information was known to be untrue, waited five days to correct the record - 25 February 2014

111. Contravenes 113 years of established practice by releasing the previous Government's confidential cabinet papers to the Royal Commission into the Pink Batts scheme – 22 February 2014

110. Pressured SPC Ardmona to slash pay and conditions for workers in return for Government money - 20 February 2014

109. Blames carbon pricing for the closure of Alcoa smelters and rolling mills and the loss of nearly 1000 jobs, despite the fact the company states it had no bearing on their decision - 19 February 2014

108. Breaches the privacy and puts in danger around 10, 000 asylum seekers and their families by releasing their personal details on the

Department of Immigration website – victims of the decision and their 19 February 2014

107. Fails to ensure the safety of asylum seekers in our care on Manus Island who were subjected to a vicious attack, which left one person dead and seventy-seven seriously injured - 18 February 2014

106. Reverses the previous government's decision to care for refugee children who are without an adult family member (ie unaccompanied minors) in the community and sends them to detention centres in Nauru - 17 February 2014

105. Appoints a climate change sceptic to head a review of our renewable energy target - 17 February 2014

104. Pays hundreds of indigenous workers in his Department up to \$19, 000 less than non-indigenous workers doing the same job and cuts the budget for the representative body the National Congress of Australia's First Peoples causing two-thirds of the staff to lose their jobs -15February 2014

103. Breaks a promise to provide fibre-to-the-premises for all Tasmanians for the National Broadband Network - 13 February 2014

102. Unemployment rate jumps to highest in more than 10 years - 13 February 2014

101. Lies to the Australian public about the reasons Toyota gave for their decision to close in order to blame the workers who are the

union - 12 February 2014

100. Takes down a website providing information to the Australian public on the ingredients and nutritional content of foods. It is later revealed that the person in the Minister's office who gave this directive is married to a lobbyist from the junk food industry and was still a share holder in their lobbying company - 11 February 2014

99. Destroys the Australian car manufacturing industry by refusing to provide any industry assistance leading to the decision of Toyota to shut costing up to 30 000 jobs - 10 February 2014

98. Launches a Royal Commission into unions - 10 February 2014

97. Reintroduces temporary visas for asylum seekers found to be fleeing persecution preventing them ever settling in Australia and retrospectively applies them to 20 000 people - 7 February 2014

96. Supports a reduction of penalty rates and other Award minimums in a submission to the Fair Work Commission's review of all Awards -4 February 2014

95. Lies to the Australian public about the wages and working conditions of factory workers at SPC Ardmona in Shepparton and uses this lie to blame them for their own job insecurity - 4 February 2014



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- 94. Abolishes the Charities and Not-For-Profits Commission which regulates charities and investigates complaints of fundraising scams, corruption and fraud, costing 100 jobs – 31 January 2014
- 93. Launches an "efficiency study" into ABC and the SBS 30 January 2014
- 92. Cuts the wages of Australian troops deployed overseas by almost \$20 000 per soldier – 29 January
- 91. Intervenes on the side of Toyota to support cutting Australian workers wages and conditions – 28 January 2014
- 90. Privatises the 104 year old Australian Valuation Office costing nearly 200 jobs – 24 January 2014
- 89. Seeks to wind back the World Heritage listing of Tasmania's forests – 23 January 2014
- 88. Withdraws funding for an early intervention program to help vulnerable young people 22 January 2014
- 87. Exempts Western Australia from national environment laws to facilitate shark culling 21 January 2014
- 86. Defunds all international environmental programs, the International Labour Organisation and cuts funding to a range of international aid programs run by NGOs such as Save the Children, Oxfam, CARE Australia and Caritas 18 January 2014
- 85. Violates Indonesia's territorial sovereignty while turning back asylum seeker boats 17 January 2014
- 84. Scraps weekly media briefings on asylum seeker issues in an attempt to avoid public and media scrutiny 14 January 2014
- 83. Politicises the national school curriculum by appointing a former Liberal staffer and a Coalition supporter, both critics of the current curriculum to conduct a review 10 January 2014.

- 82. Directs that people already found to be refugees who arrived by boat be given the lowest priority for family reunion 8 January 2014
- 81. Fails to contradict or take any action against a member of his government, Senator Cory Bernardi, who makes divisive statements about: abortion, "non-traditional" families and their children, same sex couples, couples who use IVF and calls for parts of WorkChoices to be reintroduced 6 January 2014
 80. Devastates Australia's contribution to overseas aid by cutting \$4.5 billion from the budget, causing vital programs supporting those in extreme poverty in our region to collapse 1 January 2014
- 79. Drastically reduces tax breaks for small business and fails to publicise it 1 January 2014
- 78. Refuses to support jobs at SPC at the cost of hundreds of jobs 27 December 2013
- 77. Appoints Tim Wilson, a Liberal Party member and Policy Director of a right-wing think tank to the position of Commissioner at the Human Rights Commission even though this think tank argued for the Commission to be abolished 23 December 2013
- 76. Approves private health fund premium increases of an average 6.2% a year 23 December 2013
- 75. Breaks his promise to provide the promised customs vessel to monitor whaling operations in the Southern Ocean 23 December 2013
- 74. Requests the delisting of World Heritage status for Tasmanian forests – 21 December 2013
- 73. Dilutes consumer protections and transparency requirements for financial planners, including abolishing the requirement they put their clients interests first 20 December 2013
- 72. Breaks a promise to make no cuts to health by cutting \$150 million from hospital and health services in Western Sydney 17 December 2013.

71. Scraps the Home Energy Saver Scheme which helps struggling low income households cut their electricity bills - 17 December 2013

70. Defunds the Public Interest

- Advocacy Centre whose objectives are to work for a fair, just and democratic society by taking up legal cases public interest issues 17 December 2013
 69. Defunds the Environmental Defenders Office which is a network of community legal centres providing free advice on environmental law 17 December 2013
- 68. Axes funding for animal welfare 17 December 2013
- 67. Breaks his election promise of no cuts to education by cutting funding for trade training centres in schools
 17 December 2013
- 66. Abolishes the AusAID graduate program costing 38 jobs 17 December 2013
- 65. Cuts Indigenous legal services by \$13.4 million. This includes \$3.5 million from front line domestic violence support services, defunding the National legal service and abolishing all policy and law reform positions across the country 17 December 2013
- 64. Abolishes the position of coordinator-general for remote indigenous services - 17 December 2013
- 63. Breaks his promise to unequivocally support the NDIS by changing the name of NDIS "launch sites" to "trial sites" and flags cuts to funding 17 December 2013
- 62. Abolishes the National Office for Live Music along with the live music ambassadors - 17 December 2013
- 61. Cuts \$2.5 million from community radio 17 December 2013
- 60. Weakens the ministerial code of conduct to let ministers keep shares in companies 16 December 2013

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- 59. Disbands the independent Immigration Health Advisory Group for asylum seekers – 16 December 2013
- 58. COAG dumps the National Occupational Licensing Scheme which was on the brink of going live, making it harder for skilled workers to work interstate, throwing away tens of millions of dollars, and forgoing millions in productivity savings 14 December 2013
- 57. Axes \$4.5 million from charities and community groups for the Building Multicultural Communities Program 13 December 2013
- 56. Starts dismantling Australia's world leading marine protection system 13 December 2013
- 55. Scraps the COAG StandingCouncil on Environment and Water13 December 2013
- 54. Breaks his NBN election promise of giving all Australians access to 25 megabits per second download speeds by 2016 12 December 2013
- 53. Overturns the "critically endangered" listing of the Murray Darling Basin 11 December 2013
- 52. Dares Holden to leave Australia. Holden responds by announcing its closure which costs Australians 50 000 jobs 11 December 2013
- 51. Approves Clive Palmer's mega coal mine in the Galilee Basin which opponents say will severely damage Great Barrier Reef - 11 December 2013
- 50. Demands that the few childcare workers who got pay rises "hand them back" 10 December 2013
- 49. Approves the largest coal port in the world in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area – 10 December 2013



- 48. Removes the community's right to challenge decisions where the government has ignored expert advice on threatened species impacts 9 December 2013
- 47. Downgrades national environment laws by giving approval powers to state premiers 9 December 2013
- 46. Undermines Australia's democracy by signing a free trade agreement with South Korea allowing corporations to sue the Australian Government 6 December 2013
- 45. Damages our diplomatic relationship with our nearest neighbour East Timor – 5 December 2013
- 44. Repeals the pokie reform legislation which was designed to combat problem gambling 4 December 2013
- 43. Suspends the Wage Connect program, despite it being proven to deliver good outcomes for unemployed people 3 December 2013
- 42. Axes funding to the Alcohol and Other Drugs Council of Australia, forcing the 46 year old organisation to close 27 November 2013 It is later revealed that a staffer in the Assistant Health Minister's office had links to the Alcohol Industry 17 February 2014
- 41. Breaks his promise to support Gonski and back flips three times 25 November 2013
- 40. Shifts Australia's position at the UN on Israeli settlements 25 November 2013
- 39. Damages our diplomatic relationship with the Indonesian Government by refusing to apologise for tapping the phones of their President, his wife and senior Government officials 23 November 2013
- 38. Converts crucial Start-Up Scholarships into loans, increasing the debt of 80,000 higher education

- students by \$1.2 billion 21 November 2013 37. Gifts two navy patrol boats to the Sri Lankan government to stop asylum seekers fleeing the Sri Lankan government - 17 November 2013
- 36. Introduces a Bill to impose on workers who are elected onto unpaid union committees huge financial penalties and jail terms for breeches of new compliance obligations 14 November 2013
- 35. Condones torture by foreign governments by saying "sometimes in difficult circumstances, difficult things happen" – 14 November 2013
- 34. Hides information from the Parliament and the people about the government's treatment of asylum seekers 13 November 2013
- 33. Separates a refugee mother from her newborn baby 10 November 2013
- 32. Cuts 600 jobs at the CSIRO 8 November 2013
- 31. Abolishes Insurance Reform Advisory Group which provided a forum for industry and consumer bodies to discuss insurance industry reform - 8 November 2013
- 30. Abolishes the Maritime Workforce Development Forum which was an industry body working to build a sustainable skills base for the maritime industry - 8 November 2013

JOIN BMUC Blue Mountains

residents can become BMUC members if they support our Aims and Objects. Membership is open to union members, to retired unionists and to those who are unemployed or unwaged.

Membership Fees Waged \$15.00 pa Unwaged \$5.00 pa

BMUC Secretary 52 Great Western Highway Mount Victoria NSW 2786 Phone 02 4787 1401

- 29. Abolishes the High Speed Rail Advisory Group whose job it was to advise Governments on the next steps on implementing high speed rail for eastern Australia - 8 November 2013
- 28. Abolishes the Advisory Panel on the Marketing in Australia of Infant Formula which for 21 years ensured companies comply with agreements on the advertising of infant formula - 8 November 2013
- 27. Abolishes the Antarctic Animal Ethics Committee who ensured research on animals in the Antarctic complies with Australian standards - 8 November 2013
- 26. Abolished the National Steering Committee on Corporate Wrongdoing that for 21 years worked to make sure the law was effectively enforced on corporate criminals - 8 November 2013
- 25. Abolishes the National Intercountry Adoption Advisory Council which provided expert advice on overseas adoption - 8 November 2013
- 24. Abolishes International Legal Services Advisory Council which was responsible for working to improve the international performance of Australia's legal services - 8 November 2013
- 23. Abolishes the Commonwealth Firearms Advisory Council a group of experts in gun crime and firearms which was set up after the Port Arthur massacre 8 November 2013
- 22. Abolishes Australian Animals Welfare Advisory Committee a diverse group of experts advising the Agriculture Minister on animal welfare issues - 8 November 2013
- 21. Abolishes the National Housing Supply Council which provided data and expert advice on housing demand, supply and affordability -8 November 2013

- 20. Abolishes the Advisory Panel on Positive Ageing, established to help address the challenges the country faces as the number of older Australians grows 8 November 2013
- 19. Refuses to offer support to manufacturing in Tasmania, despite requests and warnings. Caterpillar announces the move of 200 jobs from Burnie to Thailand, costing around 1000 local jobs 5 November 2013
- 18. Provides \$2.2 million legal aid for farmers and miners to fight native title claims 1 November 2013
- 17. Abolishes the 40 year old AusAID costing hundreds of jobs - 1 November 2013
- 16. Launches a successful High Court challenge which strikes down the ACT Marriage Equality laws invalidating the marriages of many people and ensuring discrimination against same-sex couples continues – 23 October 2013
- 15. Denies there is a link between climate change and more severe bush fires and accuses a senior UN official was "talking through their hat" 23 October 2013
- 14. Appoints the head of the
 Business Council of Australia to a
 "Commission of Audit" to
 recommend cuts to public spending
 22 October 2013
- 13. Cuts compensation to the victims of bushfires 21 October 2013
- 12. Instructs public servants and detention centre staff to call asylum seekers "illegals" 20 October 2013
- 11. Appoints Howard era Australian Building & Construction Commission (ABCC) Director to help reinstate the ABCC with all its previous oppressive powers over construction workers 17 October 2013

- 10. Axes the Major Cities Unit a Government agency with 10 staff which provided expert advice on urban issues in our 18 biggest cities - 24 September 2013
- 9. Breaks his promise to "stop the boats" 23 September 2013
- 8. Scraps the Social Inclusion Board, which had been established to guide policy on the reduction of poverty in Australia - 19 September 2013
- 7. Abolishes the Climate Commission 19 September 2013
- 6. Appoints himself Minister for Women 16 September 2013
- 5. Appoints only one woman into his cabinet and blames the women for his decision, saying he appoints "on merit"—16 September 2013
- 4. Abolishes key ministerial positions of climate change and science 16 September 2013
- 3. Breaks his promise to spend his first week with an Aboriginal community 14 September 2012
- 2. Takes away pay rises for childcare workers – 13 September 2013
- 1. Takes away pay rises from aged care workers 13 September 2013

