

Benson Koschinski

The Australian Labor Party

1. How will you address the cost of living in Australia?

Anthony Albanese and Labor have a plan to deliver cost of living relief for every Australian. Labor has worked hard to bring down inflation to 2.4 per cent, and an Albanese Labor Government will deliver additional tax cuts for every taxpayer, cut student debt by 20 per cent, help young people buy their first home with a 5 per cent deposit and expand access to bulk billing so that everyone can get the healthcare they need when they need it.

2. How will you restore the opportunity for Australian families to purchase their own home?

Housing is the number one issue for my generation. Young people are asking how they'll be able to get a foot in the door and buy their first home. That's why Labor's announcement that you'll only need a 5 per cent deposit to buy a house is so important. A 20 per cent deposit is a massive mountain to climb for many young people who face high rents, and who don't have the luxury of getting help from the 'bank of mum and dad'. This will be a game changer for young people right across the country.

But this is only one part of our ambitious \$43 billion Homes for Australia plan. We're focused on the long-term fix, which is building more homes. We've got a big target with the states to build 1.2 million homes in 5 years, including 55,000 social and affordable homes. And the Prime Minister recently announced a new election commitment to also build 100,000 homes exclusively for first home buyers. Because we know that more homes help make housing more affordable.

3. How will you protect the environment?

People in Berowra know that Climate Change is real, and they expect their representatives to take it seriously. Like a lot of young people, I got involved in politics because I wanted to see the Government take climate change seriously and take action to cut greenhouse emissions. A re-elected Albanese Labor Government will cut greenhouse emissions, and build more cheap, clean renewable energy to get our energy grid to 82 per cent renewables by 2030.

4. What plans do you have to ensure Australian energy security?

Labor's plan for energy security is to deliver more of the cheapest and cleanest energy - renewable energy - backed by hydro, gas, and batteries. Labor also has a plan to make home batteries cheaper which will reduce the cost of a typical home battery by up to 30 per cent. It means that a household that already has rooftop solar could save nearly \$1,100 off their power bill, while a household installing a new solar and battery system could save up to \$2,300 a year.

5. How will you enhance educational opportunities for all Australians?

A re-elected Albanese Labor Government will keep delivering free TAFE which will give young people right across our country the skills and the opportunities they deserve to develop a great career. Australians across the country have enrolled in around 600,000 Free TAFE courses, including 40,000 construction related courses.

These are the next generation of tradies who will help us reach our goal of 1.2 million new homes, and tackle housing pressures in Australia and get more first-time buyers into a home. Free TAFE doesn't just mean young people getting better skills, it means better wages, better opportunities and more new housing for young people.

6. How will you ensure access to good healthcare for all Australians?

Anthony Albanese and Labor will deliver the biggest investment in Medicare since its creation over 40 years ago. Are-elected Albanese Labor Government will invest \$8.5 billion to deliver an additional 18 million bulk billed GP visits every year, expand the bulk billing incentive to all Australians, and introduce a new incentive payment for practices that bulk bill every patient. What does this mean? It means that under Anthony Albanese and Labor, you'll be able to get the care you need with just your Medicare card, not your credit card.

7. What is your plan for better transport in the electorate?

Labor is providing federal funding to replace Epping bridge after years of inaction from Liberal state and federal governments. That means a better commute for so many people in our community. Shorter travel times on our roads mean a faster commute to and from work, less congestion, and more time left over so people can enjoy life, spend time with family and less time sitting in traffic

8. What is your plan for addressing Indigenous disadvantage?

There is a lot more that we need to do to close the gap. That's why Federal Labor has a plan to build more homes in remote communities, remove the activity test to deliver better childcare for first nations kids, deliver more community run health services, increase access to culturally safe maternal care and help people into the workforce and reconnect them to housing and social services as they are leaving the correctional system.

9. What is your plan for Australia's defence?

We're living in an increasingly uncertain world. Under Labor, the Australian Defence Force is growing for the first time in almost four years. Labor has a plan to more than double the Navy's surface combatant fleet compared to the plan we inherited, to acquire next generation submarine capacity through AUKUS and begin production of advanced missiles here in Australia.

But defending our nation is also about making sure that Australia is secure in our region and respected across the world.

That's why Anthony Albanese and Labor have rebuilt our relationship with our partners in the Pacific and across South East Asia, as well as with our traditional partners like New Zealand, the United States, Canada, the UK and the European Union. The Albanese Labor Government has also stabilised the relationship with our largest trading partner, China.

10. How will you encourage respect for the common good of all Australians?

Labor has a plan to build Australia's future. That means a country where no one is held back and where no one is left behind, where Australians can keep more of the money they earn, where young people can afford to buy their first home and where we can use the transition to clean energy to deliver thousands of new jobs, cleaner energy, and a better quality of life for everyone.