

SPEECH

A Better Future. Labor

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PREMIER OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

ADDRESS TO THE AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY CAMPAIGN LAUNCH

**PERTH
SUNDAY, 1 MAY 2022**

***** CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY *****

Thank you

Can I start by acknowledging the traditional owners of the land we meet on today, the Whadjuk people of the Noognar nation, and pay my respects to their elders, past present and emerging.

It is a great pleasure to have the Labor family together, all here in Western Australia.

Who would of thought that in a twelve month period, WA would play host to some of the biggest shows in Australia.

The AFL Grand Final, the Brownlow, the Rugby League State of Origin, the AFL Dreamtime game, and the Australian Labor Party campaign launch.

I welcome our State and Federal colleagues here in Perth today, including South Australian Premier Peter Malinaskus and former Prime Ministers Paul Keating and Kevin Rudd.

And the next Prime Minister of Australia, Anthony Albanese!

Anthony and I are completely in-sync.

It's not just about delivering affordable TAFE or more local manufacturing

It runs much deeper than that.

We both caught COVID on the same day.

We are both proud poodle owners – his is Toto, mine's Georgie.

Both of us have been on a diet for some time, and lost a fair bit of weight...

But, no matter how hard we work at it, neither of us look like Peter Malinaskus!

Anthony, like me, is a student of history.

Both of us understand the importance of Western Australia. Not just to the Federal election,

But to the prosperity of the country,

And the history of the great Australian Labor Party.

Western Australia was home to two our nation's greatest citizens and Prime Ministers.

John Curtin - who practically ran the nation from Perth.

He saved Australia, from a disastrous conservative Government, and an even bigger external threat.

Bob Hawke – who spent most of his upbringing and university years in Leederville, in a house not far from the brand new Perth school we built, that proudly bears his name, Bob Hawke College.

When he was still with us, Bob told me he always identified as a West Australian.

He remembered at age ten being introduced by his uncle, and future WA Premier, Bert Hawke, to the great man John Curtin himself.

Bob understood, deeply, that the success of all our states and regions is crucial to the success of the nation.

That the entire country needs to be carried forward, together.

That's the Labor ethos that I believe in.

That's the Labor ethos that Anthony believes in. A fair go, for everyone.

No matter where you start in life, or the opportunities that you have.

No matter the colour of skin.

No matter the state or territory you call home.

Whether you're in Perth or Penrith, Hedland or Hobart, Broome or Brisbane.

Everyone deserves a fair go in life.

There are no Liberal states, or Labor states.

All around the country, there are only Australian states.

With men and women who want to see Governments that care about what they care about.

Quality jobs, quality health care, a protected environment and a bright future.

For them and for future generations.

This campaign, we are talking to these Australians.

WA has been incredibly successful over the past few years. We have been tested and came out on top.

Some of the best economic, health and social outcomes in the world.

Lowest unemployment rate of all the states.

Strongest set of finances.

The only Government in surplus, and paying down debt.

Just this Tuesday – Deloitte Access Economics declared Western Australia was one of the best performing economies in the world.

Other leading economic and financial institutions have also recently published reports saying very similar things.

And friends, we know that it is Labor Governments that best manage our economy and responsibly manage our finances.

The evidence is in, and it's beyond reasonable doubt, the Liberals and Nationals can't manage money.

Our success in Western Australia comes from strong Labor economic and financial management.

Our careful and cautious approach to the pandemic.

And the magnificent efforts of all Western Australians, doing the right thing, for over two years.

WA's success helps fund the nation. It helps fund Australia's recovery.

Western Australia is proud to contribute to the rest of the country.

We had to make the tough calls, to be where we are today.

We took responsibility during the pandemic, as a state we stepped up and did what had to be done.

Made the difficult decisions.

Labor Governments around the nation steered this country through some of its hardest times since the Second World War.

Just imagine where we would be.

Where WA would be, where Australia would be.

If the Liberals and Nationals, and their fellow traveller Clive Palmer had been successful in their efforts to undermine our hard work.

And can you believe, that after all that, the Liberals would still do a deal with Clive Palmer.

There are no excuses for striking a preference deal like this, with someone like Clive Palmer.

To be that desperate and blatant, it's an insult to every Australian. And especially every Western Australian.

The Liberal Party hasn't learnt its lesson, and has clearly lost its way.

But on the other hand, over the past two years, Anthony Albanese always stood by Western Australia and supported us in the tough decisions we had to take.

So this election, if you want a Prime Minister, that will step up and take responsibility, that will stand up for WA, vote for Labor!

If you want to see more things made in Australia, with Australian jobs, vote Labor!

If you want to see more young Australians, get the skills they need for the opportunities they deserve, vote Labor!

And if you want a future, that's more affordable, where everyone gets a fair go, and no one gets left behind, vote Labor!

I've known Anthony for a long time.

He is one of the most senior and experienced figures in the nation.

He is resilient.

He is authentic.

He is the real deal.

He has boundless energy.

He is a fundamentally decent person – driven by empathy and a deep sense of civic responsibility.

And I have every confidence he will make a fine Prime Minister and a great partner for Western Australia.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I am proud to introduce the next Prime Minister of Australia, Anthony Albanese.

ENDS