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JACQUI LAMBIE NETWORK POLICY

1. Defence

JLN will always have a special interest in all matters associated with veterans, former and serving members of the Australian Defence Force and their families.

The men and women of Australia's military who have pledged undying loyalty to Australia, trained for war, followed politicians' orders, bled, sacrificed and protected our world famous ANZAC legend for decades - have been lied to, betrayed and abandoned by all political parties and senior military officers.

Our defence force numbers - at approximately 58,000 FTE (*just over half the crowd for a football grand final at the MCG*) and military reserves, resources and equipment - have been run down to the point where Australia's national security and ability to protect our sovereign interests for future generations is seriously compromised.

The high rate of serving digger and veteran psychological harm has been negligently caused because Australian politicians and senior military officers, over time, agreed to international military commitments with the knowledge that too few ADF members would be asked to share too much of the overseas combat and peacekeeping duties.

Put simply, our relatively small numbers of diggers have been asked over the last 15 years, by Australian politicians and military leaders, to spend too long on the frontline – despite those commanders knowing that our diggers were guaranteed to suffer at the very least extremely high rates of psychological injuries.

A) Middle East (Iraq) Military Deployment

JLN does not support the current deployment of troops to the Middle East and calls on the Australian government to immediately withdraw them. America, with only 3000 troops stationed in Iraq, has deployed a token military force and is not

serious about overcoming Islamic State. Australia should consider the deployment of military forces when America and the rest of the world get serious about properly neutralising the threat of Islamic State.

In the meantime ***all efforts to support Kurdish fighters and people in the Middle East***, including the supply of weapons and humanitarian assistance, should be carried out. JLN notes to-date, the Kurdish fighters are the only effective ground forces in the struggle against Islamic State – and that Kurdish and Australian culture shares a similar love of democratic institutions, basic civil freedoms, human and women's rights. JLN condemns Turkey's attacks on PKK military assets and personnel who are engaged in the fight against ISIS.

The JLN will fight for the men and women of our ARMY, Navy and RAAF in parliament – just as hard as those women and men have fought, and continue to fight, for their mates, family and Australia in international war zones and peacekeeping operations. The difference between JLN and other political organisations is that we will live up to the ANZAC legend – not off it.

B) Royal Commission – Defence Abuse and Veterans' Welfare

JLN demands the immediate establishment of a **Defence Abuse and Veterans' Welfare Royal Commission** with broad terms of reference. The main purpose of this Royal Commission is to:

- Deliver justice to the tens of thousands of members of the ADF, including children who joined as trade apprentices and were placed in the care of the Australian government and have been the subject of serious criminal assaults and gross sexual abuse.
- Bring to account the senior members of the ADF who, over the years, have participated in and/or covered up these crimes and gross acts of sexual abuse.



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- Ensure measures are put in place to prevent this toxic culture of sexual abuse, criminal assault and cover-up from continuing to creep back into our ADF.
- Deliver justice, timely medical treatment and fair compensation to our veterans who have suffered physical and psychological injuries in the course of their service and - when compared with civilian public servants - have been discriminated against.
- Develop a program to limit and stop the unacceptably high rate of suicide among veterans and former ADF members.
- Identify and remedy systemic bureaucratic failures of the Department of Veterans' Affairs, which have contributed to high rates of suicide, psychological harm and homelessness among veterans.
- Bring to account senior management of the Department of Veterans' Affairs, politicians and others who, over the years, have deliberately covered up successive governments' embarrassing level of veteran harm, suicides and deceitful compensation payments and any other related matters.

C) Defence Fair Pay and Pay Increases

JLN has introduced and had passed by the Senate, **legislation that guarantees fair pay and pay rises for all members of the ADF** and a wage rise safety net by linking our diggers' pay increases to the increases given to Australian politicians or the CPI - whichever is higher.

D) NSTAS - JLN will fight to establish a National Service Trainee and Apprenticeship Scheme (NSTAS), incorporating the ADF and state TAFE's.

JLN supports the introduction of a **voluntary Australian National Service, Trainee and**

Apprenticeship Scheme. NSTAS will dramatically boost the number of people serving in the ADF by reintroducing a combination of military schemes, (National Service & Trainee and Apprenticeship Schemes) that have been successfully run in the past.

NSTAS will offer voluntary basic military training and the opportunity to compete for military trade, apprenticeship and trainee courses, to all 18-year-old Australians who are not employed or studying for a university degree, vocational education or trade qualification.

And as was the case during the Vietnam War, where every member of the Australian military who served and fought in Vietnam was a volunteer - every member of the ADF who serves overseas in future war or war-like zones will continue to be volunteers.

(Note - if your number came up during the draft for the Vietnam War, it was compulsory to undertake military training, not compulsory to serve in Vietnam. Many Australians are not aware of this important point in National Service policy.)

As NSTAS is phased in, the new generation of Australians who choose not to undertake voluntary National Service Trainee and Apprenticeship Scheme and who are not earning, learning in civilian life - will not be eligible to receive any government welfare.

There will be certain exemptions for people who are not physically or psychologically able to join the ADF, but many of those people will already be receiving disability benefits. Once young Australians have successfully completed NSTAS, and they are *still* unable to find work, they will then qualify to receive government welfare.



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2. VETERAN WELFARE

A) Fair pensions indexation for Veterans

JLN supports **fair pension's indexation for Veterans** and former ADF members, including those who have been physically and psychologically wounded or harmed. ADF members who are totally and permanently injured (TPI) will be treated fairly and respectfully. JLN will introduce legislation that will protect the purchasing power of all former ADF members, by linking their pensions and entitlements to the rising cost of average Australian weekly wages.

B) Health Gold Card - Automatic grant

JLN supports the **automatic grant of a Health Gold Card** to all Australian veterans who have served in war-like or war-zones. The Health Gold Card allows our veterans free of charge - to quickly access the best medical treatment that Australian can offer. Currently the long, complicated, expensive and deliberately exhausting fight to access a Health Gold Card, forced on our Veterans by both Labor and Liberals parties – is killing them.

C) Veterans' suicide rate

Our **veterans' suicide rate** - intentionally kept secret by all major political parties and senior military officers to protect their reputations - is a national disgrace and shame. A major cause of Australia's obscene veterans' suicide rate (*apart from systemic under-resourcing and over-commitment to international operations*) is the unnecessary psychological damage caused during our veterans' bureaucratic fight for Gold Card guaranteed medical treatment.

JLN believes that when properly considered, **the automatic grant of Health Gold Cards to Australia's veterans** will be cost-neutral after the extremely high expense of doctors, lawyers and suicides are removed from the assessment process, and taken into account.

JLN will remind parliament often that if governments offer the excuse they can't afford the best treatment for the men and women who volunteered to fight and die for Australia, then don't send them to war in the first place.

D) Digger's Act or the Australian Veterans Educational Assistance Act

JLN supports the establishment of **the Australian Veterans Educational Assistance Act or the Digger's Act**. The act will allow our diggers, after they discharge from the Australian military and free of charge - to further their education qualifications or vocational and trade skills. The legislation will be modelled and similar to America's very successful GI Bill, which has helped build and strengthen their society.

Eligibility for the Digger's Act will be a subject of party and community debate, but those who have served in war or war-like zones, will automatically qualify. The JLN Digger's Act will help remedy out of control veterans' self-harm, suicide and homeless rates, while investing in a proven nation-building program.

JLN acknowledges Australians enjoy our nation's great wealth, beautiful country and democratic freedoms, rights and privileges, which are the envy of the world because of the great debt we owe to those who have honourably served in our military.



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3. EDUCATION

A) TAFE Boost & Institutional Pathways

In addition to the boost in military numbers and resources, JLN supports a major reform and boost in the budget and resources to our TAFE system. TAFE will become an organisation that is more proactive in training students who are studying to increase their trade and other vocational educational skills and qualifications.

Instead of waiting for the private business sector to create a job and employ a trade apprentice, which then allows the apprentice to study and train at TAFE, JLN supports a policy where the TAFE independently of private industry establishes a certain number of apprenticeship study courses and positions.

This *“build and they will come”* approach to apprenticeship training in TAFE is officially called the creation of Institutional Pathways. JLN strongly supports the creation of TAFE Institutional Pathways, which will guarantee a national minimum number of apprentice and traineeships available to our children.

JLN Defence and Veteran policies will create a new social compact and Australian culture, which will build on and add to previous successes. Our nation will be better protected and our children will be presented with more training and job opportunities and rewarded if they learn, earn or serve.

Over time the **National Service, Trainee and Apprenticeship Scheme** will address and fix our national trade skills crisis. And the excuse of a trade skills crisis used to import foreign trades people on 457 visas – which implicitly undermines the wages and conditions of Australian workers and denies job opportunities to our youth - is removed.



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4. TAX REFORM

JLN supports the establishment of a Financial Transactions Tax (FTT) to guarantee extra government revenue for the protection of pensions and entitlements of retired Australians and defence veterans.

A) Financial Transactions Tax (FTT)

Strangely, a tax reform debate in Australia is being carried out by many high-profile media and politicians - *without* the inclusion of a Financial Transactions Tax as part of a range of credible fiscal measures to solve our looming tax revenue/spending crisis.

- Why is a significant portion of Australia's media and political representatives deliberately avoiding even talking about or mention a FTT?
- Are vested interests using their commercial, political and media influence to limit a community debate on the introduction of a FTT in Australia?

Many advanced countries, including most of the European Union, from 2016 will raise revenue from a range of FTTs. The tax is flexible and can be as little as 0.001% to 0.1% - and as the name suggests, is levied on a variety of financial transactions.

Publicly available reports indicate that, *"An official study by the European Commission suggests a flat 0.01% tax would raise between €16.4bn and €43.4bn per year, or 0.13% to 0.35% of GDP. If the tax rate is increased to 0.1%, total estimated revenues were between €73.3bn and €433.9bn, or 0.60% to 3.54% of GDP."*

European Commission (28 September 2011). ["Executive summary of the impact assessment"](#)

JLN will not support a FTT designed to have an adverse impact on Australia's real economy.

JLN, like most European Union countries, will

oppose a FTT on day-to-day financial activities of average Australian citizens and businesses (e.g. loans, payments, insurance, deposits etc.).

JLN notes an FTT could be designed to target large national and multinational corporations that have been proven to minimise or avoid tax by shifting profits to overseas tax havens – and create a fairer, simpler and more efficient Australian tax system.

High Speed Share Traders

JLN also notes that with the advance of computer technology and software, financial companies who use super computers to high-speed share trade have an unfair and significant advantage over mum-and-dad investors and even other large institutional investors.

Independent studies have shown that on the Australian Financial Markets, **High Speed Share Traders skim more than \$3B each year in profits from our mum-and-dad investors.** Both the Liberal and Labor parties have turned a blind eye to what amounts to insider trading aided by advanced computers and software.

High-speed share traders account for about 70% of American financial market trades. The Australian Security Investment Commission (ASIC) admitted in 2015 Estimate Committee hearings they don't know the identity of any (about six) high speed share trading companies that are responsible for almost 30% of Australia's stock market trades.

JLN calls on the government to make the name of these companies public and also supports a small FTT levied on these HFST companies, which at 0.01% to 0.001% could raise up to \$1.4B in revenue each year for the Australian government.

JLN advocates that this new revenue is tied to and invested in the pensions and entitlements of retired Australians and defence veterans, so their incomes are protected against loss of purchasing power.



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B) Negative Gearing

JLN notes that in a balanced and complete debate on tax reform the option to reform provisions relating to negative gearing must be considered.

JLN also notes that parliamentary research reports that in 2012-13, **1,260,470** individuals reported a 'net rent – loss' on their tax return, that is, they have negatively geared property.

And the majority or 72% of the 1.2M Australian people with interests in a rental property or approximately 900,000 tax-payers have at least one property negatively geared.

JLN considers that most fair-minded Australians would consider one or two negatively geared properties, is a reasonable number of investment properties and is prepared to closely listen to a community debate and feedback about whether Australia should allow people with three or more investment properties to negatively gear.

Parliamentary Library Research on Negatively Geared Properties.

State	No of individuals with negative geared Properties	% of all individuals with negatively geared properties
ACT	31,740	2.5
NSW	373,560	29.6%
NT	16,730	1.3
QLD	262,965	20.9
SA	88,160	7.0
TAS	18,640	1.5
VIC	298,050	23.6
WA	164,630	13.1
NA	5,995	0.5
Grand Total	1,260,470	100

(Source: ATO, *Taxation Statistics, 2012-13*, Individuals, Detailed Tables, Table 2)

C) GST Amendments

JLN opposes any move to change or increases the GST rate of 10%.

JLN agrees that there are much better and fairer ways of repairing the Australian budget and tax reform, than increasing the rate of the GST above 10%.

As noted in previous policies, JLN accepts that increasing revenue for the Australian government through the introduction of an FTT and cutting the foreign aid budget of \$20B to \$25B over the forward estimates, are much better and fairer methods of budget repair and tax reform.

JLN once again notes the establishment of an FTT of .01 to .001%, which targets half a dozen of Australia's corporate High Flyers who gain an unfair advantage while using super computers to trade shares, is a far better policy than increasing GST.

JLN also notes that \$750M would be saved each year or \$2.3B over the forward estimates - and made available for Budget repair if our troops were brought back home from Iraq – a conflict that America has made a token contribution of approximately only 3000 ground troops.

JLN supports the removal of GST from women's sanitary products.



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5. SHARIA LAW – A SIGN OF RADICALISATION

JLN is opposed to Sharia Law being imposed in Australia either formally or informally - and will promote a policy of undivided loyalty to the Australian Constitution and people.

JLN considers that support for Sharia Law, given that it's the law, culture and way of life supported by Islamic State terrorists:

- a) is a clear sign of extreme radicalisation,
- b) shows a split or divided loyalty to Australia and a clear sign of allegiance to hostile foreign powers,
- c) attacks democratic principles found in Australia's constitution

...and therefore is also a clear sign of seditious or treasonous behaviour worthy of investigation and possible charges.

JNL notes that it is an indisputable fact, backed up by many daily, gruesome and brutal examples - that states, countries and communities, which support and enforce Sharia law allow:

- The death penalty by beheading or stoning - to be imposed from a religious court on those found guilty of being homosexual, adulterous or choose to become atheists.
- Their governments to torture, mutilate and remove the limbs of those (*including children*) found guilty by a religious court of property offences, including theft.
- The governments to strip women of basic civil rights (*freedom of thought, religion, assembly, and equality before the law*)
- Their governments to discriminate against women by making it illegal for them to attend sporting fixtures, drive, drink alcohol, smoke, have sex before marriage, appear in public without a male chaperone, and seek an education.
- Their government to encourage, tolerate or turn a blind eye to female genital mutilation and forced marriages.

- Their government to encourage, sanction, tolerate or turn a blind-eye to the re- introduction of human trafficking and slavery

JLN also notes that many Islamic people can peacefully practice their religion *without* supporting and advocating for Sharia or the Terrorist's law. JLN supports and praises those Islamic people and calls on all Australian Islamic leaders and leaders of other religions to condemn those who do support Sharia Law.

JLN also calls on the Federal Police and Federal Attorney to use long-standing, existing laws - and charge with treason or sedition - those citizens who support in any way what-ever, the imposition of Sharia or the Terrorists' law, in Australia.



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6. HALAL AND OTHER FOOD CERTIFICATION

JLN will support the proper regulation of Halal and other food certification systems.

JLN notes that in relation to Islamic Halal religious food certification:

1. Independent Parliamentary library research reports that: *“There is no legal requirement that these fees are to be disclosed.”* And, *“As halal certification is undertaken on a purely commercial basis, there is no formal reporting or auditing mechanism to ascertain whether monies paid for certification are misused.”*
2. Halal food is very difficult to identify - because Halal and other certification markings on food products are not properly regulated and very difficult to locate and read.
3. For many cultures, including 80,000 Australians of the Sikh faith - eating Halal certified food is forbidden. And people practicing the Islamic faith - like followers of other peaceful, faiths are entitled to identify and eat food, which conforms to their religious custom.
4. Under questioning, in estimates Committee Hearings Attorney General Brandis – Australia’s highest law officer, failed to give Senator Lambie a guarantee that Halal Certification funds were not being used by Islamic terrorists.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-XOF6_JyEMM

JLN therefore calls on all Australian Political parties to support federal legislation, which ensures that:

- all food certification, (Halal, Kosher etc) is clearly and easily identified
- establishes a legal requirement that these fees are to be disclosed
- a formal reporting or auditing mechanism is put in place which will easily allow law enforcement and security agencies to ascertain whether monies paid for certification are misused in the support of terrorist activities.



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7. INDIGENOUS

A) Dedicated Indigenous Seats

JLN supports dedicated indigenous seats being established for Australian Parliaments.

JLN notes that studies indicate that there are clear links between indigenous wellbeing/disadvantage and the amount of indigenous representation in 4 different countries. (Australia, New Zealand, Canada and America)

Independent Research (BMC International Health and Human Rights) shows that New Zealand which has had dedicated seats in their Parliament for Maori people since 1867 (starting with 4) - has a gap between Maori disadvantage/mortality of 8.5 year and is closing, not widening. This unfortunately compares with a disadvantage/mortality gap between in Australia's first people and non-indigenous people of 23.2 years – which is widening.

JLN therefore supports a dedicated indigenous seats policy that ensures that every piece of Legislation, which passes through the Lower House and Senate, is spoken to and scrutinized from an indigenous perspective.

Because Australia has 3 to 4% of indigenous people, JLN proposes that our federal parliament should be guaranteed representation by 3 to 4% of elected indigenous representatives. This would mean that proposals to change the Australian constitution to create a new indigenous body similar to the failed ATSI Commission (ATSIC) would not be necessary.

However, JLN agrees that the Australian constitution should be changed to officially acknowledge Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island (ATSI) as the first peoples.

8. CONSCIENCE VOTES

JLN supports conscience votes on all moral & ethical issues.

JLN believes that elected members should be free to exercise their conscience when all moral and ethical issues such as same-sex marriage, abortion debate, euthanasia and republic are considered in the Parliament or by the Australian public.

JLN supports any change to the definition of marriage to be decided by a vote or plebiscite of the people at the next federal election. JLN is opposed to this decision being made in the parliament, however should the vote happen, members would be free to vote according to their conscience.



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9. FOREIGN AID

JLN supports a halving of the Foreign Aid Budget in order to help boost federal government investment in Higher Education from .6% to 1% of GDP.

JLN notes that most average Australians don't realize that both the government and opposition have plans to borrow more than \$4B each year for the next 5 years or up to \$25B - so that they can send it straight back overseas in foreign aid – while ordinary Australian pensioners, unemployed workers, uni-students, veterans and families struggle to pay their bills.

JLN questions why Australia annually sends more than \$350 M a to Indonesia – a country with a military almost 10 times the size of Australia's permanent Defence Force?

JLN also notes that If the Nordic Countries can fund and deliver the best Higher Education system in the world to their young people for free, why can't Australia?

(In 1995 Australia spent .9% of our GDP on Higher education and now we've only spend .6%.

Surely as a developed nation Australia can afford to invest 1% of our GPD in Higher Education?)

Therefore JLN supports at least a halving of the Foreign Aid Budget in order to help boost federal government investment in Higher Education from .6% to 1% of GDP. (\$9B to \$18) JLN makes no apology for putting poor Tasmanians and Australians first – before any other country's people. Charity begins at home.



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10. SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONES

JLN supports the creation of Special Economic Zones in regional and rural areas to help boost business profitability and job creation.

JLN notes that approximately 2,301 Special economic zones in 119 countries have been very successful at stimulating financial growth, lowering unemployment and creating community wealth for a range of countries and communities - and has been used as an important tool to remedy fiscal crisis in (according to Parliamentary Library research):

Summary

- **Number of countries with special economic zones = 119**
- **Number of special economic zones = 2,301**

Great Britain

- Great Britain, where on the 17 August 2011 Prime Minister David Cameron, Chancellor George Osborne and the Communities Secretary Eric Pickles, announced the location of 11 new enterprise zones. These new zones were expected to generate 30,000 new jobs by 2015.
- Some of the incentives used to attract investment to the British zones were:
- Over £150 million in tax breaks for the new business over the next four years
- As of 2012 some businesses operating within the enterprise zones in assisted areas would be eligible for enhanced capital allowances available for plant and machinery investment
- A business rate discount up to £275,000 per eligible business over a five-year period

United States of America

- Like the UK, the US Empowerment/Enterprise program involves a range of spatially targeted tax breaks and grants designed to encourage economic and social investment in disadvantaged areas.
- The federal government administers two such programs, the Federal Empowerment Zones (EMPZ) and Federal Enterprise Community (ENTC) programs.¹
- As two researchers at Yale University Busso and Kline observed, the Empowerment Zones is one of the few social welfare programs popular on both sides of the congressional aisle. In an era where non-entitlement spending on social welfare programs has been scaled back dramatically, the federal EZ program has enjoyed rapid growth.²
- The state-run programs are called State Enterprise Zones (ENTZ). These programs vary dramatically from each other. For example, some states may offer only subsidies for investment to business, while others may also offer employment tax breaks.
- Some zones are only created in particular neighbourhoods while others cover hundreds of square miles.
- Incentives-Federal
 - Businesses are eligible for a tax credit of up to 20% of the first \$15,000 in wages earned by each local worker they employed
 - \$100 million per zone to be spent on training, emergency housing assistance, promotion of home ownership
 - \$2400 in tax breaks for hiring local residents between the ages of 18 to 24.³

¹. J Ham et al, *Government programs can improve local labour markets: evidence from State Enterprise Zones, Federal Empowerment Zones and Federal Enterprise Communities*, November 2008 (Revised May 2010), viewed 22 August 2012, <http://classic.marshall.usc.edu/assets/124/21553.pdf>

². M Busso and P Kline, *Do local economic development programs work? Evidence from the Federal empowerment zone program*, Cowles Foundation Discussion Paper No. 1638, 2008, viewed 22 August 2012, <http://cowles.econ.yale.edu/P/cd/d16a/d1638.pdf>

³. J Ham *Government programs can improve local labour markets*, op. cit.



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China

- Since the economic reforms of 1978, China has been setting up SEZs and providing them with financial, investment and trade privileges as well as encouraging them to test innovative policies that if successful could then be implemented into the wider economy.
- In 1980, the first SEZ was established in Shenzhen and is often highlighted as a success story for turning a small fishing village into a vibrant economic hub, which is now home to a number of high-tech companies. In 2003, the Shenzhen zone attracted US\$30billion in foreign direct investment, exported \$48 billion worth of goods and directly employed 3 million people.
- In June 2012, the Economist reported that the zone will be further expanded to attract more “modern service industries”. The plan is to attract finance professionals, lawyers and accountants and impose no income taxes on them.

Developing and Transition Countries Summary

The following table shows the number of zones in developing and transition countries. As this table indicates the Asia Pacific region has the most number of SEZ (p.26)

Number of zones in Developing and Transition Economies

Summary

- **Number of countries with special economic zones = 119**
- **Number of special economic zones = 2,301**

Country & Location of Special Economic Zone	Number
Asia and Pacific	991
China	187
Vietnam	185
Americas	540
Central and East Europe and Central Asia	443
Middle East and North Africa	213
Sub Saharan Africa	114

JLN also notes that Parliamentary Library Research indicates that: *Despite regular calls to create SEZs in Northern Australia and in the Northern Territory, there have never been SEZs in the formal definition (as used in this Memo) in Australia.*⁴

JLN calls on the Australian federal and state governments to stop the ad hoc granting of special economic incentives for certain companies - and to develop an organised plan to establish special economic zones in rural and regional where the worst social indicators and unemployment rates are being recorded.

JLN acknowledges that because of consistently high unemployment and falling business confidence, economic zones, which guarantees for all Tasmanian business:

1. a payroll tax free zone
 2. dramatically reduced Bass Strait freight / vehicle / passenger charges; and
 3. the cheapest electricity / gas prices in Australia – indeed the world
- is the first essential step our state must take on a long journey to recovery.



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11. CARBON TAX AND ETS

JLN opposes the introduction of a carbon tax or ETS – until our major trading partners introduce a similar tax for their energy use.

“Whether it’s a carbon tax that is a fixed charge on energy - or an ETS that is a floating price on energy use ... I don’t believe that just making Australian pensioners, businesses and families pay more for their energy ... will stop world Climate change.” Senator Jacqui Lambie.

JLN believes in climate change and the need to de-carbonise the base-load energy production of all the world’s nations.

However, JLN also understands the critical need to protect Australian workers’ wages, conditions and job security by ensuring that, when compared with international competitors, our manufacturers, businesses and households are able to access some of the world’s most reliable and cheapest electricity and energy.

JLN notes that Parliamentary Library Research of OECD’s 2013 energy prices shows that Canada, Norway, United States, South Korea, Switzerland, Israel, Finland, Luxembourg, France, Sweden and New Zealand (11 advanced economies) have electricity cheaper than Australia’s average household price of 19.75 US cents per Kilowatt Hr or 26.86 Australian cents per Kilowatt Hr.

JLN also notes that Germany, which relies on 12.33% of its energy from renewable sources according to the same research, has average household electricity prices at 37.26c US cents - or 50.67c Australian cents per Kilowatt Hr., which is almost double that of Australia’s electricity prices.

JLN understands that a carbon tax or Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) will ultimately increase the cost of energy to Australian businesses and households – and will strongly oppose the introduction of either energy taxes – until a binding world agreement on these

taxes is reached by our major trading partners. That would mean other countries would experience the same percentage rise in energy prices as Australia, should those taxes be imposed.

In the meantime, while Australia waits for the world agreement on a carbon tax or an ETS, JNL strongly supports the following two measures, which are assured to quickly lower carbon emissions while keeping power prices low, while guaranteeing reliability of supply:

1. The doubling of base-load renewable energy in the form of Hydro Electricity
2. A community debate, followed by a national referendum on the introduction of nuclear power generation

12. NUCLEAR POWER

JLN notes that should the majority of Australians agree to allow the establishment of a home-grown industry of nuclear power generation; this of course will significantly de-carbonise our base-load national energy supply and achieve the same purpose as a carbon tax or ETS for the environment, while keeping the cost of electricity low and competitive with our major trading partners.

JLN notes that Australia has more than 30% of the world’s known uranium resources and has the potential to become the new Saudi Arabia of the 21st Century, which continues to embrace the rapidly advancing technologies and new safer methods of nuclear power generation.



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13. COST OF POWER & ENERGY

JLN supports a monitoring and regulation system, which ensures that our power and fuel prices for Australian consumers and businesses are not more expensive than our overseas competitors.

“If we are to protect Australian wages and conditions – save Australian jobs, then our electricity and energy prices must be lower than our overseas competitors.”
 Senator Lambie.

JLN notes that of all the advanced countries in the world, Australia is one of the most energy rich nations, and if governed properly - should be able to supply the cheapest, most reliable power, gas and fuel to its businesses and households.

JLN research proves that Australia’s power, energy prices are not the cheapest, when compared with our major overseas competitors. With all the political focus on renewable energy, rather than affordable energy, JLN acknowledges that the cost of living and running businesses in Australia is too high.

Price of Household Electricity Parliamentary Library Research OECD 2013

Country	Price in US Cents per KW/Hr
Canada	8.46
Norway	9.65
United States	12.12
South Korea	12.94
Switzerland	13.59
Israel	15.17
Finland	16.39
Luxembourg	16.90
France	17.23
Sweden	17.45
New Zealand	18.43
Australia	19.75 – 25 Aust. Cents / KWH
Italy	30.28
Germany Tot = 625,000 GWH Renewable = 77,000 GWH or 12.33 % of Tot.	37.26 note its expensive because they rely on subsidized renewables 48Aust / KWH

JLN notes that the cost of living and doing business because of the relatively high price of Australian energy, has not received the serious political attention and discussion it deserves.

JLN therefore demands that power and gas prices should be the subject of a broad-ranging parliamentary inquiry, which is tasked to find out why our business and households are forced to pay inflated *bush-ranger electricity*, power and fuel prices?

JLN wants the following three-part key question explored and answered by the Senate inquiry into power prices, gas and fuel prices.



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What affect will a future **a) Australian Gas Reserve Policy b) Australian Nuclear Power Generation Industry c) Australian Renewable Power Generation Industry**, dominated by non-baseload power sources, have on domestic electricity and power prices?

JLN acknowledges that free trade, globalisation and the removal of restrictive trade tariffs have provided many opportunities for Australian companies to create wealth and jobs by exporting goods and services to the world.

However JLN also acknowledges with free world trade and deregulation Australian companies - particularly those in the prime wealth creating industries of manufacturing, mining, farming and tourism – are unfairly forced to compete with cheap overseas labor and cheap, dangerous work conditions.

JLN knows that the only way those Australian businesses can remain profitable and maintain their world competitive edge - while preserving their Australian workers' pay, awards and conditions – is to access cheap energy.

JLN condemns any political party that ignores this fundamental economic reality, which - if not properly addressed - will caused (*as witnessed in the car manufacturing industry*) the closure of Australian businesses and loss of Australian jobs.

A “*she'll be right attitude*”, or a deliberate cover up (*complacency or complicity*) of the danger that an energy and fuel cost crisis will caused to our national interests, will not be tolerated by JLN.

An Australia energy and fuel cost crisis will cause more social harm and economic damage in the short to medium term to Australia than any predicted Climate Change, which according to the scientists cannot be stopped because global warming is already locked in for the next 30 to 40 years.

Therefore the JLN, in addition to the establishment of special Parliamentary Committee, supports a monitoring and regulation system - which ensures that our power and fuel prices for Australian consumers and businesses are not more expensive than our overseas competitors.



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14.AGRICULTURE

A) Prime Cropping and Agricultural Land Protection

JLN supports the creation of a National policy to protect Australia's scarce prime cropping and agricultural land.

JLN understands that as the world population increases, every one agrees that the risk of world food shortages is real and we must protect our best food growing lands.

JLN notes that Parliamentary research shows 3.4 % of Australia's ground is *priority*, or *prime* agricultural land. In other words, it's the best soil we have to grow crops on.

JLN also notes that despite this fact research also reveals that there is no Australian national policy to identify and protect prime agricultural land.

Given this fact, JLN calls on all federal politicians to answer this question: if only 3.4% of the total land mass of Australia is prime agricultural land, why don't we have a national plan to protect it from all mining or development?

Parliamentary Library Research

State	% Prime Ag. Land *
NSW	8.13
Vic	21.0
Qld	1.33
SA	3.89
WA	3.39
Tas	2.65
NT	0.009
ACT	0.29
Australia	3.4

* Source: ABS Agricultural Commodities (Cat 7121.0) and Water Use on Australian Farms (Cat 4618.0) 2013-14

JLN strongly supports the creation of a National policy to protect Australian Prime or Priority Agricultural land and condemn the major political parties, especially the Nationals for allowing this policy failure to exist for so long.