

# Grayndler Gazette

FROM ANTHONY ALBANESE MP, YOUR FEDERAL MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

## Standing Up for Action on Climate Change



American Tea Party politics came to Marrickville earlier this month when a protest against the Gillard Labor Government's plan to put a price on carbon pollution was marked by abusive language, offensive signs and bad behaviour.

Anthony Albanese spoke to the group and explained why he supported action on climate change. "Just as the rest of the world is acting, we need to act," he told the crowd.

"When it comes to the issue of carbon pollution I say that we need to listen to the scientists about the science. In terms of the method of action, we need to listen to the

economists about how to achieve the cheapest and most efficient way to reduce our emissions. They tell us that a market based solution is the best way forward."

Anthony argued that the Government had the same target for carbon reduction as Tony Abbott. "The difference between us and the Coalition is that we want to tax the big polluters and



A regrettable sign held by demonstrators outside Grayndler Office.

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# The word on Twitter

continued from page 1

**@AlboMP:** Thanks so much for all the positive messages :) Think the video speaks for itself **tiny.cc/zrtu0** 2 Sep via Echofon

**@LiamPutnis:** **@AlboMP** the courage you showed on Thursday was truly inspirational.. you ought to be proud of yourself. All the best Albo! 3 Sep via web

**@MONTAIGNE26:** i'm no **@AlboMP** fan, but they didn't come to talk, they came to abuse... by staying calm, he exposed them as empty vessels <http://j.mp/oNFH5K> 1 Sep via HootSuite

**@CarbonTaxFan:** **@AlboMP** #auspol #carbontaxBecause u kept ur head when all about u, were losing theirs and blaming it on u - makes u one cool dude Albanese! 2 Sep via Mobile Web

**@brucey1618:** **@AlboMP** Saw footage of protest outside your office. Massive respect for the way you handled yourself. Inspirational stuff. 2 Sep via web

**@TinyTheCabbie:** **@AlboMP** I may not agree with everything Labor says or does. But credit where credit is due...it took balls to face that mob. Well done 2 Sep via Echofon

**@andreC27:** **@AlboMP** Good on you Albo. No way I could have faced a crowd like that. 2 Sep via web

**@Glebe2037:** Massive kudos to **@AlboMP** for his behaviour and attitude in addressing those convoy protesters ... well done sir 2 Sep via iTweet.net

**@kissability:** **@AlboMP** Good to see you standing up to hate, ignorance and intolerance today (though you shouldn't have had to). 1 Sep via Twitter for Mac

**@James\_D:** Carbon tax protesters abuse Albanese **tiny.cc/nxx2p** -its 1 thing to demonstrate its another to shout names and physically touch some 1 1 Sep via web

**@climatenewtown:** And what a positive vibe, in contrast to the other protesters who visited **@AlboMP**! Pics up at [bit.ly/ap8Gx8](http://bit.ly/ap8Gx8) & [on.fb.me/qmyRUw](https://www.facebook.com/qmyRUw) 1 Sep via web

**@JayneAzzo:** Anti-carbon tax protest outside the office of **@AlboMP**. Protester: "you're a gutless loser". Albo: "well, I'm here!" 1 Sep via web

**@AlboMP:** Pro climate change action demo outside my office at 11am, anti climate change action demo at 12 noon - kelbys coffee hoping for busy day :) 1 Sep via web

Follow me on twitter **@AlboMP**

provide assistance to low and middle income earners. Tony Abbott would tax everyone and give assistance to the big polluters – that is the difference between the two proposals. "

The crowd included many active Liberal Party campaigners including the Federal Liberal Member for Indi, Sophie Mirabella.

"The level of anger and intolerance we are seeing, not just at this rally, but at recent ones in Canberra and on blogs and web sites is not the way to go," said Anthony after the protest.

He said one placard in particular made him despair. It read 'Tolerance is our Demise' (see photo on front page).

"Here we are in the heartland of multicultural Australia, in streets lined with Vietnamese, Greek, Chinese and Portuguese restaurants and the footpaths filled with people from just about every nation on earth. Here was a woman marching through the streets preaching intolerance."

Anthony also rejected calls from the protesters that an early election should be called.

"We have a democratically elected government. It is a government that has seen every piece of our legislation carried before the Parliament," he said.

"In the first year of this Government, 185 bills have passed through the lower house with none stopped by the opposition. Not one. As a point of comparison, 108 were carried in the first year of the Howard Government."

Anthony said it was important people approach the debate positively with a view to solving a global problem.

An earlier protest the same day, organised by Climate Action Newtown and GetUp!, was supportive of the Government's plans to put a price on carbon.

This protest was also well attended but far more peaceful and positive with placards saying "Renewable energy not negative energy". Anthony listened to their speakers and outlined the benefits of action on climate change.

**"There is no progress in hate . . . like an unchecked cancer, hate corrodes the personality and eats away its vital unity. Hate destroys a man's sense of values and his objectivity."**

Martin Luther King

Quoted by Anthony Albanese in his first speech in Parliament Hansard 6 May 1996



Anthony addresses supporters from Climate Action Newtown and GetUp!





## Greg Combet outlines Labor's plan in Petersham

Over 500 residents attended Petersham Town Hall last month for a forum which Anthony hosted along with the Climate Change Minister Greg Combet.

Mr Combet spoke about the Gillard Labor Government's plan for addressing climate change, including how the carbon pricing mechanism will work, assistance for lower income households and investment in renewable energy.

Residents were given the opportunity to ask questions about different aspects of the climate change debate and it was extremely pleasing to see such a large number of people attend (see photo below).

A carbon price will cut pollution and drive investment in clean energy sources.

It's a tough reform to make but it's the right thing to do for our economy and our environment. It's also the right thing to do for our future generations.

It was good to hear from so many people who are supportive of the government's plan and it's events like these that can help to generate discussion in the community about this important reform.

THE NEXT  
**COMMUNITY FORUM**  
WILL BE ON **MENTAL HEALTH**  
ON **WEDNESDAY 19 OCTOBER AT 6:00PM** AT **WESTS ASHFIELD LEAGUES CLUB**, 115 LIVERPOOL RD, ASHFIELD.  
**MARK BUTLER THE MINISTER FOR MENTAL HEALTH & AGING** WILL BE THERE TO DISCUSS **THE GOVERNMENT'S RECORD INVESTMENT IN MENTAL HEALTH & ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS.**



## Clean Energy Bills debated in Parliament

The *Clean Energy Bills* have been introduced into the Parliament. The Bills, when passed, will make Labor's Plan, for a clean energy future, into law.

Labor's plan is to put a price on carbon for the 500 biggest polluters. Some of these polluters will pass those costs on to consumers. The Bills will ensure there is a household assistance package to help ordinary Australians.

The assistance package includes:

- A tax cut for all taxpayers with an annual income of under \$80,000 a year. Most will receive \$300 a year

- Pensioners and self-funded retirees will receive up to \$338 extra a year if single and up to \$510 for couples (combined)

The carbon price will commence on 1 July 2012. The legislation will force the biggest polluters to pay for their carbon pollution and encourage them to reduce the amount of pollution they produce. It will:

- Cut carbon pollution by at least 159 million tonnes a year by 2020. This is the equivalent of taking 45 million cars off the road.
- Ensure investment in clean energy – solar, gas, wind

- Create jobs in clean and renewable energy

The science on climate change is irrefutable. The Labor Plan, with the support of crossbenchers will ensure that Australia takes action that is effective, without ordinary Australians having to bear the cost.

*real solutions*

# In Parliament

**HANSARD**  
24 August 2011

**Anthony Albanese (12:02):** The Australian Labor Party, of which I am a very proud member, has a long and proud tradition of advancing the cause of equality and social justice in our society. We recognise that all men and women are born equal regardless of their sexuality. In my very first speech in this parliament in 1996 I talked about the need to remove discrimination where it existed, whether it be on the grounds of race, gender, class or sexuality. In my first term in June 1998 I introduced a private member's bill to give same-sex couples equal rights aimed at removing discrimination with regard to superannuation in terms of the parliament. I introduced this same bill a further three times without success...

The world moves on very quickly, and indeed I am very proud that in our first term of office the Labor government amended some 84 Commonwealth laws to eliminate discrimination against same-sex couples and their children in a range of areas—reforms that meant people were treated equally in line with that great Australian tradition of a fair go for all, reforms that it took a Labor government to deliver. At the last ALP national conference the party platform was changed and further progress made. In addressing the conference I acknowledged that history was moving forward on this issue. I said this to the conference:

**I have a view that my relationship, because I happen to be heterosexual, is not undermined by someone else's relationship because it is homosexual.**

I remain very much of that view. The Australian Labor Party will be debating the issue of marriage equality at our upcoming national conference later this year. There are widely held views within the Labor Party, as a broad based political party, as there are in society. Each and every person is entitled to their opinion and entitled to have their opinion respected. I have long been an advocate of change, but I have also been an advocate who has stressed the need to bring the community with us...

I certainly did not need a motion from the parliament to discuss these issues. I have been engaged with the community, whether they be people from the gay and lesbian community or people from the heterosexual community, who have views on these issues for a very long time...I have been doing this for 15 years across a range of issues and I am very proud of the fact that I think people see me as being open and accessible.

## National Disability Insurance Scheme

Anthony has welcomed the announcement that the Gillard Labor Government will start work immediately with states and territories on measures that will build the foundations for a **National Disability Insurance Scheme**.

"The Government asked the Productivity Commission to examine reform of disability support services because we believe that the system we have today is not delivering the kind of care and support Australians expect for people with a disability."

Anthony said the proposal was an important progressive step that would take away the lottery of how people's care needs would be funded.

"That's why the Gillard Labor Government is pushing for this important reform," said Anthony.

For a copy of the Productivity Commission report visit <http://www.pc.gov.au/projects/inquiry/disability-support/report>

## High Speed Rail

*Imagine boarding a train in the centre of Sydney and being whisked to the heart of Melbourne or Brisbane in three hours.*

The first stage of the implementation of high speed rail network has been released by Anthony in his role as Minister for Infrastructure & Transport.

Based on the preliminary work the network is expected to carry around 54 million passengers a year by 2036; cost between \$61 billion and \$108 billion to build and substantially cut carbon pollution.

The potential benefits of this technology are hard to ignore. It could better integrate our regional and metropolitan communities and ease road and airport congestion.

For a full copy of the Stage One report or to make a submission, go to: [www.infrastructure.gov.au/rail/trains/](http://www.infrastructure.gov.au/rail/trains/)

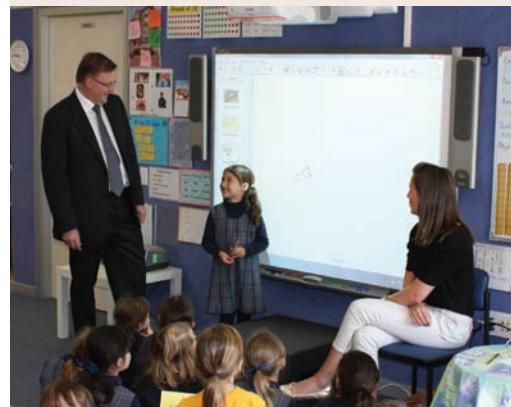


Anthony has recently opened a number of school projects built as part of the Gillard Labor Government's **Building the Education Revolution (BER)**.

These include a new library and multipurpose hall at **St Paul of the Cross School** in Dulwich Hill (see photo above), building refurbishments at **Bridge Road School** in Camperdown, and four new classrooms at **Dobroyd Point Public School** (see photo below).

These investments will not only benefit the children at these schools today but the generations of children who will follow.

Everyone who was involved in these projects including the principals, school staff, parents and tradespeople should be proud of their contribution.



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\* Centrelink, Immigration,  
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