

# 2019 MOTIONS

## 2019 FEDERAL COUNCIL

### ECONOMY, TAXATION & FINANCE

#### 1 LIBERAL NATIONAL PARTY

That this Federal Council calls on the Federal Government to deregister “Aussie Farms” as a Charity or Deductible Gift Recipient due to the threat it presents to Australian agriculture and its biosecurity measures.

CARRIED

#### 2 WESTERN AUSTRALIA

That this Federal Council calls on the Federal Government to allow employers to obtain a 100 per cent tax deduction for paying off all or part of their employees’ education debt.

CARRIED

#### 3 WESTERN AUSTRALIA

That this Federal Council calls on the Federal Government to increase Zone Tax Offsets for eligible residents in remote areas of Australia.

CARRIED

#### 4 FEDERAL YOUNG NATIONALS

That this Federal Council calls on the Federal Government to gradually roll back the fuel excise tax.

CARRIED

### DEFENCE & VETERAN AFFAIRS

#### 5 LIBERAL NATIONAL PARTY

That this Federal Council calls on the Federal Government to implement a Pacific air patrol scheme to complement the Pacific patrol boat scheme.

CARRIED

#### 6 LIBERAL NATIONAL PARTY

That this Federal Council calls on the Federal Government to raise defence spending commitment to at least 2.2% of GDP.

LOST

#### 7 FEDERAL YOUNG NATIONALS

That this Federal Council calls on the Minister for Veterans Affairs to review the processes around the DVA issued Health Cards with a view to:

- a. ensuring that veterans have personal contact with a case officer; and
- b. increasing the number of organisations that accept DVA issued health cards through a targeted engagement strategy.

CARRIED

## EDUCATION, TRAINING & RESEARCH

8

NEW SOUTH WALES

That this Federal Council calls on the Federal Government to review the price structures for university courses.

CARRIED

9

WOMEN'S FEDERAL COUNCIL

That this Federal Council urges the Federal Government to commence an urgent enquiry into the Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA), the regulator of Vocational Education and Training (VET), focusing on practices that are causing business closures, excessive litigation and the decline of business confidence in the training sector.

CARRIED

10.

PPR

That this Federal Council:

- a. notes recent concerns about the 'replication crisis' or 'reproducibility crisis' in science and revelations that almost 250 scientific papers - some associated with the country's most reputable universities - have been found to be compromised; and
- b. calls on the Federal Government to establish an independent Science Quality Assurance Agency to provide quality assurance and verification of scientific papers which are used to influence, formulate, or determine public policy.

CARRIED

11

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

That this Federal Council calls on the Federal Government to offer greater support to apprentices by increasing the Living Away from Home Allowance.

CARRIED

12

FEDERAL YOUNG NATIONALS

That this Federal Council acknowledges the findings of the recently released Productivity Commission review into 'demand-driven university places' and calls on the Federal Government to:

- a. investigate options to ensure a variety of viable employment options and/or vocational training is available to young rural and regional people;
- b. work with universities and relevant industry groups to develop and implement a practical strategy to provide greater academic support to students to mitigate the risk of dropouts.

CARRIED

## PRIMARY INDUSTRY, FOOD SECURITY & WATER

13

NEW SOUTH WALES, PPR

That this Federal Council calls on the Federal Government to:

- a. recognise the regime of water flows in the Murray Darling Basin have significantly changed since the Murray Darling Basin Plan was enacted;
- b. review the volume of water required to achieving environmental outcomes set out in the Murray Darling Basin Plan;
- c. review the science that established that the South Australian Lower Lakes were historically fresh water;
- d. examine any option that could enable more water to be made available to agriculture in the Murray Darling Basin

CARRIED

14

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

That this Federal Council congratulates all MDB States and the Australian Government for their statement of continued commitment to the implementation of the Murray Darling Basin Plan at the recent CoAG meeting on 9 August 2019. Whilst recognising the impacts of the unrelenting drought, this Council also recognises that the long-term future sustainability of regional communities in the Murray Darling Basin is critical to regional Australia and calls on the Federal National Party to stay the course to implement the Basin Plan.

**Moved: South Australia**

AMENDED / LOST

15

PPR

That this Federal Council calls on the Federal Government to conduct an immediate review of the *Federal Environment and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* so as to reinvest in the principle of private property for landowners and remove excessive caveats that divested farmers of their proper rights of farm management.

CARRIED

16

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

That this Federal Council calls on the Federal Government to lead reform on the labelling requirements for non-animal related 'milk', 'meat' and 'fish' products by removing the term 'milk', 'meat' and 'fish'.

**Moved: Victoria**

AMENDED / CARRIED

17

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

That this Federal Council calls on the Federal Government to provide for greater transparency around the trading of water in the Murray Darling Basin and to take steps to ensure that predatory pricing and speculation on water that adversely affects producers is stamped out. This Council holds that the ability of our producers to access water at a fair and market based price is vital to the ongoing health of our communities and that water is primarily a resource for land based production and not for corporate profit.

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT (NOT PUT TO COUNCIL)**

That this Federal Council calls on the Federal Government to provide for greater transparency around the trading of water in the Murray Darling Basin and to take steps to ensure that predatory pricing and speculation on water that adversely affects producers is stamped out. This Council holds that the ability of our producers to access water at a genuine and market based price is vital to the ongoing health of our communities and that water is primarily a resource for land based production and not for corporate profit.

CARRIED

18

NEW SOUTH WALES

That this Federal Council calls on the Federal Government to reinstate subsidies for the cost of Q Fever testing and vaccination.

CARRIED

19

PPR

That this Federal Council urges and encourages the Federal Government to build on the existing measures in place to assist those in Regional Australia managing through this severe drought. While the Farm Household Allowance payments, the Drought Future Fund, and other measures are welcome, Federal Council acknowledges that there is more to be done and calls on the Federal Government to give consideration to an additional round of drought assistance measures while this prolonged dry continues.

CARRIED

## **FAMILIES, HEALTH & WELFARE**

20

NEW SOUTH WALES

That this Federal Council calls on the Federal Government to:

- a. urgently facilitate specialist training entirely in regional facilities in psychiatry, palliative care, gerontology and general practice, through the Royal College of Physicians, and
- b. make Medicare rebates available for qualified rural and remote counsellors to cover the cost of counselling appointments for mental illness.

CARRIED

21

WOMEN'S FEDERAL COUNCIL

That this Federal Council acknowledges the shortage of doctors in many Australian regional and remote communities and, in concert with the National Rural Generalist Pathway program, calls on the Federal Government to pursue measures to rectify this.

CARRIED

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22

NEW SOUTH WALES

That this Federal Council calls on the Federal Government to maintain the pre- 30 June 2019 Federal funding for aged care facilities as introduced post March 2019, and urgently seek a review into the decrease in funding to apply from 1 July 2019.

CARRIED

23

PPR

That this Federal Council calls on the Federal Government to amend social security law to enable a cashless debit card to be rolled out nationally for social security recipients aged 35 years and under who receive Newstart Allowance, Youth Allowance (Job seeker), Parenting Payment (Single) or Parenting Payment (Partnered) to reduce the social harm caused by welfare-fuelled alcohol and drug abuse.

CARRIED

24

PPR, WESTERN AUSTRALIA, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

That this Federal Council calls on the Federal Government to pursue increasing the welfare system to make it adequate in supporting Australians in meeting their basic needs and enabling dignified participation in a modern economy

**Moved: South Australia**

CARRIED

## TRANSPORT & INFRASTRUCTURE

25

NEW SOUTH WALES

That this Federal Council calls on the Federal Government to develop an aspirational nation building project to assess the potential of the harvesting of water from the Burdekin Dam in Queensland and redirect these waters south by canal, existing waterways, and pipelines terminating in the Murray River in NSW.

CARRIED

26

LIBERAL NATIONAL PARTY

That this Federal Council calls on the Federal Government to establish a working committee with balanced industry and government expertise to review existing water security measures and infrastructure and recommend long term water security plans.

CARRIED

27

PPR

This Federal Council congratulates The Nationals in Government for delivering Australia's largest ever infrastructure spend and establishing a \$100 billion pipeline over the next 10 years, noting that around \$32 billion of this funding will be spent in Regional Australia. This Federal Council calls on the Federal Government to work collaboratively with State, Territory, and Local governments to ensure this productive infrastructure investment is delivered to grow our economy and support regional communities who have been hit by drought.

CARRIED

28

PPR

This Federal Council notes that The Nationals in Government are establishing the Commonwealth's first authority dedicated to guiding policy and building much needed water infrastructure, including dam, pipelines, weirs and other projects that will provide for our nation's future water security and drought-proofing needs. This Federal Council calls on the Federal Government to provide sufficient resources and funding to the National Water Grid so that it is able to evaluate, test and implement plans for nation building water projects that will see Regional Australia flourish into the future.

CARRIED

## COMPETITION, CONSUMER & LEGAL AFFAIRS

29

NEW SOUTH WALES

That this Federal Council calls on the Federal Government to:

- a. provide long-term loan facilities with an interest rate of no more than 1.5 percent above the official interest rate from the Regional Investment Corporation Fund, and
- b. establish a fund to adapt the current cropping Farm Income Protection fund model to grazing enterprises.

CARRIED

30

NORTHERN TERRITORY

That this Federal Council calls on the Federal Government to grant companies engaged in bona fide primary production the same access to tax averaging and income equalisation deposit schemes as sole traders and partnerships.

WITHDRAWN

31

NEW SOUTH WALES

That this Federal Council calls on the Federal Government to broaden the eligibility of the Farm Management Deposit scheme to include companies and other entities with a turnover of up to \$10 million and to increase the deposit limit from \$800,000 to \$2 million.

CARRIED

32

NEW SOUTH WALES

That this Federal Council confirm to the Australian Electoral Commission that the constitutional structure of the National Party of Australia is and always has been comprised of political parties that are autonomous, independent, and self-governing and which choose to be affiliated with the Federal Council but which in doing so do not relinquish their autonomy and that any public funding entitlements under the Electoral Act 1918 (Cth) or other acts should adhere to this constitutional structure.

REFERRED TO FMC

# 2019 MOTIONS

## 2019 FEDERAL COUNCIL

33

NEW SOUTH WALES, VICTORIA

That this Federal Council notes the price of fuel at service stations is subject to large and unpredictable swings and calls on the Federal Government to conduct an inquiry into the disparity of retail petrol prices between regional and rural areas compared to city prices.

CARRIED

34

NEW SOUTH WALES

That this Federal Council calls on the Federal Government to establish a Royal Commission to examine allegations of misuse of market power, unconscionable conduct, and the use of unfair contract terms by the three large supermarket chains Woolworths, Coles, and Aldi.

CARRIED

35

WOMEN'S FEDERAL COUNCIL

That this Federal Council urges the Federal Government to establish an independent national justice reinvestment (JR) body, consistent with the recommendations from the Australian Law Reform Commission's report *Pathways to Justice - An Inquiry into the Rates of Incarceration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples (2017)*.

CARRIED

36

LIBERAL NATIONAL PARTY

That this Federal Council calls on the Federal Government to recommend to the Australian Electoral Commission that the length of time for pre-polling be reduced to two weeks and consideration be given to a reduction of the number of pre-poll booth locations within electorates.

AMENDED / CARRIED

37

PPR

That this Federal Council calls for a change in the allocation of Senators from 12 per state to two per six regions within a state. No region can be larger than 30% of the size of a state nor will any urban basin be allocated more than one region.

CARRIED

38

FEDERAL YOUNG NATIONALS

That this Federal Council calls on the Federal Government to amend the *Electoral Act 1918* and *Referendum (Machinery Provisions) Act 1984* to require all electors to show an acceptable form of identification when casting their ballot at a Federal Election or Referendum.

CARRIED

39

PPR

That this Federal Council

- a. supports a policy of 'reverse redlining' whereby insurance providers are required to maintain a minimum percentage of policy holders in areas considered to be significantly disaster prone; and
- b. calls on the Federal Government to work with insurance companies to achieve this outcome through voluntary targets in the first instance, and through mandatory targets if this is not successful; and
- c. calls on the Federal Government to take any other reasonable measure that will lower the burden of insurance premiums in significantly disaster prone areas, including but not limited to a government-backed reinsurance scheme, additional direct financial assistance for household mitigation works, and leadership via COAG to remove stamp duty on insurance transactions

CARRIED

40

PPR

That this Federal Council calls on the Federal Government to reintroduce legislation that would end the practice of "lawfare," ensuring only those people directly affected by a development have the legal standing under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* to challenge ministerial decisions in courts, and not people who live thousands of kilometres away from that development.

CARRIED

41

PPR

That this Federal Council calls on the Federal Government to remove the tax-deductible status of any environmental group that:

- a. has advocated for breaking the law, or organised activities where the law has been broken; and
- b. is involved in political activity (e.g. if they distribute material that in any way indicates preference for or against a political candidate or party)

AMENDED / CARRIED

42

PPR

That this Federal Council notes the recent spate of illegal actions and disruptive tactics by environmental activists and calls on the Federal Government to:

- a. outlaw the use of a carriage service to transmit material inciting another person to trespass or block access to a lawful place of business, road, or railway, or to unlawfully damage, destroy or steal property belonging to a lawful business;
- b. outlaw any action or threat of action intended to advance a political cause by coercing or intimidating a government, lawful business, or the wider public, including by disrupting roadways, railways, or port infrastructure

AMENDED / CARRIED



43

PPR

That this Federal Council calls on the Federal Government to amend the *Competition and Consumer Act 2010 (Cth)*, such that when prohibited conduct is found by the ACCC to have occurred in any Australian market, appropriate action may be taken in an escalating manner, including:

- a. ACCC issued warning notices and infringement notices; and
- b. court ordered civil penalties up to a maximum of \$10 million, three times the total benefit attributable to the misconduct, or ten percent of the turnover of the corporation in the 12 months before the conduct occurs; and
- c. on the recommendation of the Competition and Consumer Commissioner, the Commonwealth Treasurer may apply to the Federal Court for Divestiture Orders relating to misconduct in any market.

CARRIED

## ENERGY & RESOURCES

44

PPR, NEW SOUTH WALES, FEDERAL YOUNG NATIONALS

That this Federal Council calls on the Federal Government to conduct an immediate review of the *Federal Environment and Biodiversity Conservation Act* and other relevant legislation to encourage debate and development of a nuclear fuel, technology, and power industry in Australia.

CARRIED

45

VICTORIA, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

That this Federal Council calls on the Federal Government to increase national strategic fuel reserves by purchasing additional public reserves or by mandating the stockpiling of fuel by private enterprise well beyond current levels.

CARRIED

## SMALL BUSINESS & REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

46

NEW SOUTH WALES

That this Federal Council calls on the Federal Government to make available waiting list reduction incentives for migrants who choose to live in Regional Australia.

AMENDED / CARRIED

# 2019 MOTIONS

## 2019 FEDERAL COUNCIL

47

NEW SOUTH WALES

That this Federal Council calls on the Federal Government to investigate a program that allows small and micro business owners to put tax-free money into a deposit account in a profitable year, in order to withdraw that money in a year that they take parental leave from the business, and hence the business makes less profit.

CARRIED

48

WOMEN'S FEDERAL COUNCIL

That this Federal Council calls on State and Federal Governments to investigate and implement initiatives to help rural communities establish community business models as outlined in the 2016 Senate Report on Cooperatives and Mutuals.

CARRIED

URGENCY MOTION

VICTORIA

That this Federal Council notes the dire circumstances facing irrigators in Victoria and Southern NSW and strongly opposes the recovery of the Murray Darling Basin Plan's 450GL of upwater.

CARRIED

URGENCY MOTION

VICTORIA

That this Federal Council calls on the Federal Government to direct the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder to trade 300GL of water for immediate use by drought impacted communities in Victoria and NSW to ensure critical food production and manufacturing businesses remain viable.

CARRIED