

Election 2019: Labor Policy Analysis

Government Digitisation



A cohesive ALP digital government vision will be the domain of Labor's Digital Brains-trust

Who's responsible?

The Hon [Ed Husic MP](#), **Member for Chifley NSW**, Shadow Minister for the **Digital Economy** and Shadow Minister for **Human Services**.

Labor's Digital Champion

The Hon Bill Shorten has provided perhaps the strongest message of the election campaign relating to Government Digitisation with the confirmation that the Hon [Ed Husic will retain his role as Shadow Minister for the Digital Economy](#).

Mr Husic's vision for a Digital Australia, and the required Digitised Government to serve it, is recorded on many transcripts, including his February 2019 [AIIA National Press Club](#) speech.

What was in Hon Ed Husics Feb 2019 speech?

Husic is certainly a digital champion, and in his own electorate he has supported the STEM Makerspace learning hub initiative through the [Colebee Learning Community](#).

Digital Skills, or the lack of them, are clearly on Mr Husic's radar: "I don't think digital economy policies leading to the election can avoid the biggest thing that's affecting the digital economy, which is skills". (See AIIA Labor Policy Analysis on Skills)

Mr Husic outlined ALP priorities for a Digital Australia with a focus on people, skills, public investment and industry collaboration as:

- Building the brains and capability of the nation to meet skills need and better prepare people for change
- The need to build public capability for better service to the nation

- Ways we can support bigger tech firms in this country through much needed investment - via both capital and human capital pathways
- Engaging bigger and smaller business in this endeavour while also opening up avenues for smaller players to flex their capability.

Mr Husic used his AIIA address in Feb 2019 to announce a core ALP policy for growing the digital ecosystem, the [Australian Investment Guarantee](#).

Government Digitisation - ALP policies

In the lead-up to the election the ALP has released many policies, often with these cutting across AIIA policy priority areas.

Many of these policies are not costed, and the ALP have stated that their full costings will be made public prior to the May 2019 election.

Australian Investment Guarantee

The ALP's **\$3.3 billion** [Australian Investment Guarantee](#) "is a pro-growth, pro-jobs reform that rewards businesses making new investments in Australia. It will be a permanent feature of the tax system, so all companies have the confidence to invest for the long term".

Tax cut for businesses creating new jobs

The ALP will "create a [new jobs tax cut](#), we're going to make it easier for small businesses to create new jobs for people who've been looking for work for more than three months."

Companies with a turnover of under \$10 million who take on a new person under the age of 25, or over the age of 55, or a parent or a carer, will be able to claim an additional 30 per cent tax deduction on the salary for up to five employees.

Advanced Manufacturing

The ALP will establish a **\$1 billion [Advanced Manufacturing Future Fund](#)** (AMFF) to help innovative Australian manufacturers expand their businesses and create new jobs. The AMFF will support firms that find it difficult to obtain private sources of finance.

Lack of access to finance is a key impediment to the ability of Australian small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to grow and adopt new technologies.

Improved Regional Communications

The ALP will invest **\$245 million** to address mobile black spots, improve digital inclusion and fund local projects to [improve connectivity in regional communities](#).

This initiative includes improved data collection to support better decision-making, and working with industry and regulators to develop more accurate and comparable mobile coverage maps to support policy making.

Marine Science

The ALP will invest more than **\$100 million** into [marine science](#) in Australia's north, including a **\$30 million** redevelopment of the iconic ReefHQ in Townsville, additional funding for the Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS), the refit of the RV Cape Ferguson science vessel and a major new reef research initiative.

Climate Science

The ALP will commit **\$10 million** to boost the capabilities of the [CSIRO Climate Science Centre](#), better coordinate Australian climate science and develop an Australian climate science capability plan, as well as meet our international obligations.

AI Hub with focus on Ethics

The ALP has committed **\$3 million** for a [National Centre for AI Excellence](#) to be based in Melbourne.

The centre will provide a platform for collaboration between governments at all levels, educational institutions and the private industry. (See AIIA Labor Policy Analysis on Skills)

Blockchain Academy in Perth

The ALP will commit **\$3 million** to establish a [Blockchain Academy](#) in Perth. (See AIIA Labor Policy Analysis on Skills)

Electric Renewables

The ALP have set an ambitious national target of [one million new residential battery systems](#) by

2025, to be supported by rebates for new battery installations.

Electric Vehicle Targets

“[No one's ute is going to be confiscated](#). You can buy whatever car you want”. Bringing Australia into line with the rest of the developed world the ALP have announced their [Electric Vehicle target](#): “by 2030, we have a target, that 50 per cent of new cars in Australia are electric-powered”.

Electric Vehicle and Manufacturing and Innovation Strategy

Labor plans to invest \$57 million in this strategy starting in 20/21 with a proposed expenditure of \$17 million in this period.

Data Science for SKA

Labor intends to spend another \$6 million over the next 4 years on the Square Kilometre Array project.

eSmart Digital Licence

The ALP will invest \$2 million over future years on the eSmart Digital Licence project.

Tasmanian Renewables

The ALP will establish a [Renewable Energy Zone](#) in North West Tasmania, and will take the next steps in establishing Tasmania as the Battery of the Nation – bringing investment in renewable energy, related industries and new jobs for the West Coast of Tasmania.

Mines of the future

The ALP will boost Australia's potential as a resource powerhouse and battery production superpower by investing **\$75 million** in developing the [future mining of resources](#) such as lithium.

Closing the NBN digital divide

The ALP will implement a “credible” [NBN policy](#) to:

- Get more elderly and low-income households connected
- Improve speeds and reliability for Fibre to the Node households
- Better protect small businesses and consumers against excessive NBN downtime
- A co-investment approach for targeted co-investment in fibre in the medium term, and
- A review of the NBN economic model.

Investment in City Infrastructure

The ALP will honour any [City Deal](#) that has been signed and budgeted for. In addition, they will offer those councils the opportunity to deepen their

agreement with the aim to foster collaboration between three levels of government.

- [City Partnership Program](#)
- [Australian Investment Guarantee](#)
- [Australian Skills Authority](#)
- [Blockchain Academy](#)
- [National Centre for AI Excellence](#)

Links

- [ALP Budget Plan May 2019](#)
- [AIIA Pre-Budget Submission to Treasury 2019](#)
- [AIIA Government Digitisation Policy Position Statement](#)
- [Bill Shorten's Budget Reply Speech, April 2019](#)
- [Labor's Policies for A Fair Go For Australia](#)
- [A Fair Go For Australia - Labor National Platform](#)
- [STATEMENT - CHANGES TO THE SHADOW MINISTRY - TUESDAY, 21 AUGUST 2019](#)
- [The Hon Ed Husic - SPEECH TO THE AUSTRALIAN INFORMATION INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION - 22 February 2019](#)
- [Bill Shorten uses Labor federal election campaign launch to make new jobs, health promises](#)
- [Labor's Plan For Advanced Manufacturing Jobs](#)
- [Labor's Plan to deliver Better Regional Communications](#)
- [Labor's Plan For Marine Science](#)
- [Labor's Plan For Climate Science](#)
- [Labor's Plan For Solar And Batteries For Households](#)
- [Bill Shorten DOORSTOP - MELBOURNE - MONDAY, 15 APRIL 2019](#)
- [Bill Shorten DOORSTOP - MELBOURNE - MONDAY, 15 APRIL 2019](#)
- [LABOR TO DELIVER A RENEWABLE FUTURE FOR NORTH WEST TASMANIA - THURSDAY, 2 MAY 2019](#)
- [LABOR WILL BOOST AUSTRALIAN MINES OF THE FUTURE - MONDAY, 29 APRIL 2019](#)