

**THE HON SUSSAN LEY MP
DEPUTY LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION
SHADOW MINISTER FOR INDUSTRY, SKILLS AND TRAINING
SHADOW MINISTER FOR SMALL AND FAMILY BUSINESS
SHADOW MINISTER FOR WOMEN
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR FARRER**

TRANSCRIPT

**DOORSTOP
MALLAWA SPORTS COMPLEX
PALM BEACH, QLD**

Tuesday, 25 February 2025

Topics: Upgrade for Mallowa Sports Complex; Leon Rebello our LNP Candidate for McPherson; Government waste; Federal Election; Parliamentary disclosures

E&OE.....

LEON REBELLO:

Well, we're here at the Mallowa Sports Complex at Palm Beach, and it's great to have the Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party, Sussan Ley as well as Jackie Parra, who is the General Manager of the South Coast Netball Association. We have an exciting announcement today, and it gives me great pleasure to announce that an elected Dutton led LNP team will deliver a \$250,000 federal funding contribution to the upgrade of the Mallowa Netball Courts.

Now that's going to be an absolute game changer for the clubs that play here. There are over 1200 players from the South Coast Netball Association that play and a couple of 100 players from the Palm Beach Netball Club as well. So, this is the result of the community coming together. Over many months, we ran a very successful petition across the Palm Beach area and across the clubs as well. We've had hundreds of hundreds of signatures, and the community have told us that this is something that they want to see. It's an example of an LNP team that's able to deliver for the southern Gold Coast. And I'm very excited to make that announcement that an elected Dutton led LNP team will deliver a \$250,000 federal funding commitment I'll hand over to Jackie.

JACKIE PARRA:

Thank you. Thanks very much, Leon. We've been extremely grateful for Leon's support over the last year or so. It's been it's great to get the support for our new courts. This will help female participation at South Coast Netball. The courts are really subpar at the moment, it'll help things like injuries and plaer retention so we're extremely grateful. And thank you to Leon and Sussan for being here today. And yeah, we're really thrilled at South Coast Netball. Thank you.

SUSSAN LEY:

Well thank you very much indeed, Jackie, and thank you for your passion, your determination and your support of women's sport.

But thank you, Leon Rebello, because, as the LNP Candidate for McPherson, today's announcement is just one example of how hard you are working. In fact, you've been working full time for months in this really beautiful, amazing part of the Gold Coast, with opportunity for the future, opportunity for small business, and much better opportunity for families and indeed, the wider community, after we get this country back on track and move out this awful Albanese Government.

But Leon Rebello is someone who comes from a small business background who deeply understands the pain that small businesses are feeling, and knows what it feels like if things are going as badly as they are. Because you're in a small business, Leon, on almost every day, you're knocking on the doors of the electorate of McPherson, and you're hearing firsthand from your community, and you know that they are really, really struggling under a government that has no economic plan and that is taking this country in the wrong direction with wrong and distracted priorities.

But today's announcement is great. Well done, Jackie to you and all the hard working volunteers at South Coast Netball, because when you're a little nine year old girl and you're running onto this court for the first time. It's pretty big, it's pretty scary, and it's not good if you have an injury. So to have a much better playing surface, that's going to make all the difference. So thank you, Leon for your advocacy, and after listening to you, and I know that the work you did with a petition, you've walked around here on busy, busy sports days and had people sign up, and you've talked to families every step of the way. So, this is a terrific announcement. All credit to you. \$250,000 for resurfacing the netball courts here at Mallawa. Thank you.

JOURNALIST:

Jackie, I might just ask you to sort of what we were talking about earlier. Can you talk us through, I guess, what the issues are with their current surfacing? And you were saying it's struggling with player retention there?

JACKIE PARRA:

Yes, sure. So basically, the courts are quite old on the surface. So there's two issues. If you get some rain on them, they become particularly slippery, so that that really impacts, you know, falling over, grazes and injuries like that. But particularly for as girls get older, 15 to, you know, plus to adults, it's an impact injury that's occurring. It's really hard surface. So we're finding we're losing female players from 15 plus because they don't want to play here, outdoors on these courts. So it'll be beneficial at both ends for the little ones with the grazers, will hopefully prevent the slipping and long term. So our goal is to obviously increase our membership and get more players playing netball.

JOURNALIST:

How long has the club been calling for this?

JACKIE PARRA:

We've been we've been trying for a good three years to try and get this resurfacing project. We've gone for a number of grants and haven't had much success. There's a lot of need for it at various locations around South East Queensland, and thankfully, Leon's come to the rescue.

JOURNALIST:

You we're just talking about, obviously, the Medicare agreement. How many public servants would the Coalition Government sack to pay for the multibillion dollar Medicare bulk billing commitment that Peter Dutton has just made?

SUSSAN LEY:

We've identified tens of billions of dollars of savings in the Government's earlier announcements about 36,000 additional public servants, most of them in Canberra. We know that everywhere in this Albanese Government there is waste, and this is a good example.

Because I simply put this question, does anyone anywhere feel that the service delivery from the Commonwealth Government is improving? I haven't spoken to anyone who does. The details of our costings will, of course, be made public in the lead up to the election, which could be only imminently weeks away.

JOURNALIST:

How can we have confidence, I guess, your calculation is going to be right?

SUSSAN LEY:

You can have absolute confidence that our calculations will spell out all of the things that we need to in costings leading into the next election. And you can absolutely have confidence that we are a Coalition led by Peter Dutton, who understands how to bring the economy back on track, to get the country back to basics, to build an economic plan that supports communities, like the communities that I meet when I visit Leon Rebello in McPherson, like the small businesses who are hurting every day.

I tell you this, every single small business in this country can run the economy better than Anthony Albanese.

JOURNALIST:

You just posed a question there about has anyone felt that public service is improving? How do you think making cuts to it would improve the service?

SUSSAN LEY:

We have said there won't be cuts to frontline services. We've made that very clear. In fact, the timing of the support that people receive through front line services is, in many instances, going backwards. Recently, I identified that recently released prisoners were receiving their payments from the Government more quickly than women fleeing domestic violence. How awful.

JOURNALIST:

Another one, instead of copying Labor's policy is there any appetite among the Coalition for larger reform when it comes to health or taxes, or any meaningful budget lines there,

SUSSAN LEY:

Between now and the election, whenever that is called, you will see further announcements from the Coalition.

JOURNALIST:

Labor's accusing Peter Dutton of purchasing shares in the big banks days before Labor announced the bailout in 2009. Does the Opposition Leader have any questions to answer here?

SUSSAN LEY:

Well, Peter Dutton's office has answered and responded to those questions in the story.

But I think it's important here to look at it this way. We are perhaps five days from a Federal Election being called, the Labor Party dirt unit is powering up. What a pity they're not powering up an economic plan to support families, communities and businesses.

Mr. Albanese said that life would be cheaper under him. Mr. Albanese said people would have reductions in the cost of living stresses that they're under. Mr. Albanese said no one would be left behind, and we see this five days out from an election.

JOURNALIST:

Are you confident he hasn't done anything wrong?

SUSSAN LEY:

Yes,

JOURNALIST:

Just on the earlier question. There is there any appetite among, I guess, the Coalition for some bolder policies, or will we see just mirroring what Labor has already announced?

SUSSAN LEY:

Well, stand by. I know that members of the press would like announcements every day. The announcements will come in due course, when the election is called and leading up to it.

STAFF:

Chloe, do you have anything?

JOURNALIST:

Yes, I do, actually. Thank you. Sussan, Just, following on those questions about Peter Dutton shares. If you are confident he hasn't done anything wrong would the Opposition Leader, be open to an independent investigation to clear these allegations that Labor has raised?

SUSSAN LEY:

The Opposition Leader's office has addressed these claims in the story. The point here is, is this really what the Albanese Government is focusing on right now, potentially five days from an election?

Is this really where this government, that is supposed to be bringing this country back from the brink of a cost of living crisis, are they really focusing on issues like this?

I know that the people Leon Rebello and I meet every single day are wanting their government to back them in and are seeing and are seeing a prime minister who has comprehensively left them behind.

So I leave the Labor dirt unit to do what, presumably it's going to do, I know where our hearts lie, our hearts lie with the Australian people who are hurting right now.

Thank you.

[ENDS]