



THE HON ANGUS TAYLOR MP
LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR HUME

TRANSCRIPT
JOINT DOORSTOP INTERVIEW
TURRAMURRA, NEW SOUTH WALES

Monday, 20 July 2026

E&OE...

DR JAMES THOMPSON:

Good morning, welcome to Turramurra Vet Hospital. This is my wife, Gretta. We're delighted that Angus Taylor, Senator Maria and State MP, Matt Cross, are interested in hearing about small business and the challenges that we face, which are considerable.

In particular, over 20 years we've built our vet practice. We'll probably keep going for another ten years, but we've had the rug pulled out from under us with the capital gains tax changes. For many years, we've made no money. For many years, we've paid ourselves a minimal wage and our vet practice is our main asset, our main nest egg, and now we're going to have to give a chunk of it to the Federal Government to blow on public servants or whatever. This is crazy. It's Zimbabwean-style policies and it'll be about as successful, probably.

None of the ALP have built anything, apart from Andrew Charlton, who was the only one to put up a little bit of resistance. Then they went back to the legislation and said, 'Well, hang on, this isn't really fair for start-ups.' So, the high-tech, sexy businesses are now getting special consideration, but the small family vet practice, the butcher, the plumbing contractor, the electrical business, are apparently not worthy of that same consideration. We would like that it weren't the case, but what can you do? We're also not thrilled about getting hit with pay rises in excess of inflation from the Fair Work Commission, with the removal of merchant fee surcharging, when we simply haven't got the clout to negotiate on merchant fees like the big boys – Qantas, Woolworths, Bunnings do. And then, we've also got payday super as well. So, individually they're probably all okay, but when you get hit by four or five waves of this in a row, it's a real challenge. Anyway, that's probably enough from me. I'll hand over to our Liberal representatives.

SENATOR FOR NEW SOUTH WALES, SENATOR MARIA KOVACIC:

Thank you so much, James, and thank you, Gretta, for showing us around what you have built here. I think that's a really important thing for us to focus on. This is something that has been built and created from scratch, and it didn't come easily. Australian small businesses invest not only in their own future, but in their communities.

I was really impressed, as Angus and I went through the vet clinic and saw the facilities there that serve this community and the community's pets, so many products made in Australia, highest quality products, but also an investment in people – training nurses, training vets, training people who are on graduate placements.

These are important things that Australian local businesses do that the Albanese Labor Government didn't even think about when they decided to bring in a sweeping change to taxation – one that they didn't have the courage to take to an election, one that just came in with and smashed Australian small businesses with.

This is an example of the type of business that we should be celebrating in our country – the investment and the innovation, and the courage to keep going even when times are tough. But instead, the Albanese Labor Government has another crack.

I'm really grateful to our Leader, Angus Taylor, for taking the time to come here and to listen to James and Gretta, to hear the challenges that they've got, and I'd like to hand over to him. Thank you, Angus.

LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION, THE HON. ANGUS TAYLOR MP:

Well, thanks, Maria, and thanks, Matt, for being here. James and Gretta, thank you for having us here today.

It's wonderful to be in a local vet practice. I grew up with my father as a vet, brother as a vet, and I know what extraordinarily important roles our vets play across our communities, and it's important to remember that our vets are small businesses, and I know Matt and Maria are big supporters of small businesses across this region. Vets are important parts of those local communities wherever we go. But like all small businesses, they're suffering. It's tough. It's tough. Costs are rising faster than prices, and we are seeing a record number of small businesses going out of business under Labor. We're up to 30 a day – 30 a day. This is a record number.

Of course, small businesses provide us with the local employment, the local services, the local goods that everybody needs, but they're going out at a record rate, and then add to that now tax hits that mean that the success of a small business, like James and Gretta, is going to be slugged with Labor's new tax because Labor's run out of money. They've run out of money, and when Labor runs out of money, they come after yours.

Now the truth is that Labor has led us into an economic crisis, where we haven't seen any improvement in GDP and economic output per person since Labor's been in power.

This is a record. They keep breaking all the wrong records, this Government.

We've seen the biggest hit to Australians' standard of living of any developed country in the world. That's the ability of people to pay for what they're used to buying with their pay packets – the purchasing power of their pay packet – has gone backwards faster than any other developed country in the world.

This is an economic crisis of Labor's making, and they look for excuses every single day, but the reality is that they are raising taxes, they're making it harder to do business, they're wrapping small businesses in red tape.

Now there is a better way. There is a better way, and that's what we've been laying out over the last couple of months since the Budget-in-Reply – a better way with lower taxes, with less red tape, with government getting out of the way, making it easier for small businesses to invest, to build, to grow, to employ, to take risks. Because that's how you grow an economy. That's how you strengthen people's incomes and their standard of living.

But Labor absolutely refuses to do that. Meanwhile, young Australians are giving up hope. We've met a bunch of young Australians here who are doing vet courses, vet degrees and associated degrees, and they want to know that they're going to be able to buy a home, start a family, raise a family, get ahead, start a business. So many young vets want to be able to start a new business, and yet so many young Australians are giving up hope. Well, the way ahead is lower taxes, it's government getting out of the way, it is making sure that we're building more houses and that our immigration numbers are in line with housing supply, and putting Australians first every day of the week. That's our plan.

Now, let me make a couple of comments on several other issues.

The Prime Minister is up in Darwin today and we have heard nothing from him since the election, where he made one of his commitments. Commitments at the election don't mean much to him, but he made a commitment to put the Darwin Port back into Australian hands. This is a national security issue of the utmost importance, and we've heard nothing from him. He needs to get on with that job and make sure that Australians are kept safe and that our national security is a top priority. That means getting the Darwin Port back into Australian hands.

We took that to the last election. He took that to the last election. When he takes things to an election, he doesn't take much notice of them afterwards. But this matters. He has to get it fixed, and he needs to answer the question as to what he is doing about it, how fast it's going to be done, and when it's going to be achieved.

Finally, let me make a comment on the housing market.

I see further evidence of a complete collapse in confidence in the housing market over the weekend, with clearance rates around 50 per cent, numbers of houses sold of course well down.

People are giving up hope.

People are giving up hope in this Government, and it's understandable why they would because this Government has achieved an extraordinary trifecta when it comes to the housing market: they're driving up rental rates, we're going to end up with less homes, and there's been a collapse of confidence in the market.

This is what this Labor Government has done. This is Labor's economic crisis, and it's bleeding into the housing market. We've got a housing crisis now under this Government. They have completely failed hard-working Australians.

Happy to take questions.

JOURNALIST:

Mr Taylor, you've spoken about the economic frustrations of business owners and people more broadly in the economy. Polling has shown that the Liberal Party has struggled to capture those frustrations and instead they've moved towards One Nation. Recent polling, New South Wales-specific today, shows One Nation above the Coalition. What's your pitch that your team is placed to deal with those problems above the One Nation team?

LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION:

Well, we face an economic crisis in this country of Labor's making, and the only party or Coalition with a plan and a team to take us out of that crisis is ours. We've got extraordinary members of our team, like Maria here today, like Matt at the state level.

We have the team, we have the experience, we've worked in business, we've worked in the private sector. As we heard from James a moment ago, not from Labor. They haven't, and we know One Nation is a one-person show, not fit to govern, that will take us into an economic crisis, will worsen the economic crisis indeed, as I laid out in my speech at the Sydney Institute a few weeks ago.

We are the only ones with the plan, the direction and the team to get us out of a crisis of Labor's making.

JOURNALIST:

The Prime Minister has said on Pauline Hanson's trip in Europe that she's been talking down Australia overseas. Do you agree with that?

LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION:

Well, I just don't think she has any of the answers. I mean, we have an economic crisis that the Prime Minister and his team has brought about, and One Nation doesn't have the solutions. We know their top few policies would drive up inflation, drive up interest rates by three per cent or more, and make life harder for Australians.

What we need right now is a plan that's going to get us out of the mess that's been created by Labor, and that means reducing taxes, getting government out of the way, containing Government spending so we can take pressure off inflation and interest rates, making sure our immigration policy is working for Australians, capping immigration based on the number of houses but increasing the supply of housing in this country, and putting Australians first. That means putting our national security first. That means getting the Darwin Port back into Australian hands.

These are the things that will take us out of the crisis that Labor has made. One Nation is a one-person show, as I said, and it is not fit to govern. They don't have the policies that will get us out of that crisis.

JOURNALIST:

Your Senator Alex Antic has described Malcolm Roberts as a clear thinker. Roberts says that school shooting denier Alex Jones is 'a beacon of hope' and has praised Putin in the past. How is it appropriate for a Liberal Senator to support him?

LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION:

Well, I don't agree with those views. Malcolm Roberts has said some extraordinary things in recent days. He has said that the United States is 'the worst terrorist organisation in the world.' I mean, frankly, as I say, these are things that we obviously don't believe. They are wrong, and I'll continue to make the point that One Nation is not fit to govern.

JOURNALIST:

Will you be counselling Alex Antic over those comments?

LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION:

Look, I've made it clear what my views are on this. We don't agree with those views.

All good? Thank you very much. Cheers.

[ENDS]