



**THE HON SUSSAN LEY MP
LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR FARRER**

**THE HON DAVID LITTLEPROUD MP
LEADER OF THE NATIONALS
SHADOW MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR MARANOA**

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E&OE.....

THE HON SUSSAN LEY MP, LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: Well, good afternoon. Today, David and I have reached agreement, formally, to re-form the Coalition and we can announce our new Coalition Shadow Ministry. I want to thank you, David, for the respectful and productive way that you and I have engaged throughout this process. And I know that we will be a great partnership going forward. I promised my leadership would be done differently and it will be. I've communicated with every single member of my party room about this Shadow Ministry - those who are in the Shadow Ministry and those who are not. Now that style might be unconventional, but it's important because I always said that I would harness the talents of my party room. Everyone has a role to play, even if they're not formally in this line-up. And as I said, I've communicated with every member of my party room, all 54, because this is a team that draws on the deep well of the Australian experience. It includes those who have served in uniform, migrants, and the descendants of the oldest continuous culture on Earth. There are those who've balanced the books in small businesses and those who've made tough calls in corporate boardrooms. Our team is one of strivers and optimists, of leaders and listeners. We have voices from the city to the bush, people who went to university and those who got a trade. The new Coalition Shadow Ministry balances

experience with new talent. It reflects the full range of our philosophical traditions, values and perspectives across our two great party rooms and this is important because our parties are at their best when they work together to fight right now, as a strong opposition to this government.

Now, I'm really excited to work with my new economic team, Ted O'Brien as Shadow Treasurer and James Paterson in Finance. Andrew Bragg in a new productivity and deregulation role. This will help develop economy-wide solutions to pressing issues for Australians, including housing, and as Shadow Housing Minister, Andrew will ensure that housing policy is at the heart of our economic agenda. Tim Wilson will be the Shadow Minister for Industrial Relations and Employment and, most importantly, the Shadow Minister for Small Business. Dave Sharma will also join the economic team as the Shadow Assistant Minister for Competition, Charities and Treasury. I'm particularly proud of our foreign affairs, national security and defence team, which will include Michaelia Cash as Shadow Foreign Minister, Angus Taylor as Shadow Defence Minister, Andrew Hastie as Shadow Home Affairs Minister and Jason Wood as Shadow Minister for International Development and the Pacific. This is a strong team that knows what it takes to keep Australians safe.

As the first woman to take on the Leader of the Opposition role, I'm also very pleased to see a number of capable women advance forward. Nothing is more central to the prosperity of Australians than our safety, so I'm excited to see Senator Jacinta Nampijinpa Price take on the crucial role of Shadow Minister for Defence Industry and Shadow Minister for Defence Personnel. Kerryne Liddle will come into the Shadow Cabinet and serve as Shadow Minister for Indigenous Australians and Social Services. Angie Bell will come into the Shadow Cabinet with the Environment and Youth portfolios. Melissa McIntosh will take on the really important Women's portfolio and continue her great work in Communications, being a strong voice for the protection of women and children from the failures of big tech. Anne Ruston will serve as the Health, Aged Care and Sport Shadow Minister and will take up the critical NDIS portfolio. And I want to underscore this point. We must ensure the NDIS is sustainable. The Government must prioritise this work urgently and we will hold them accountable for their promises to do so. Melissa Price will join the Shadow Ministry as Shadow Minister for Cyber Security and Shadow Minister for Science. Leah Blyth, Maria Kovacic and Zoe McKenzie will all join the frontbench and key Shadow Assistant Ministry roles. These women very much represent the future of our party. This is their first step, but it's far from their last. I'm also very happy to advise that, subject to the outcome of the vote in Bradfield, Gisele Kapterian will be appointed as Shadow Assistant Minister for Communications, Shadow Assistant Minister for Technology and for the Digital Economy. Gisele's appointment is a vote of confidence in the future of women in our party and it's a clear message to communities, like Bradfield, that if you support your local Liberal Member, they will have a direct say in the decisions that change the direction of this country. Andrew Wallace will take on the key role of Shadow Cabinet Secretary, playing an important policy development and coordination role with this appointment. Dan Tehan will take up the critical energy and emissions reduction portfolio. Dan, working alongside our passionate and talented party room and The Nationals, will lead our work to deliver a plan that gets emissions down but also delivers a reliable grid in energy for Australians. Australia does have to play its part in the global response to climate change, but not at any cost. Dean Smith, from the great resources state of WA, will play a vital role in this plan as the Assistant Minister for Energy and Emissions Reduction. Alex Hawke will be the Shadow Minister for Industry and Innovation and Manager of Opposition Business in the House. Jonno Duniam will take up Education and Early Learning. He will do the work to deliver a plan for education that gives choices to parents and prioritises knowledge and critical thinking for our kids. Julian Leaser

will serve as Shadow Attorney General and Shadow Minister for the Arts. Paul Scarr will bring fresh perspective and a great strategic mind to Immigration. My team sees the Immigration portfolio as an opportunity that really connects with our economic agenda. I also note there is a new Urban Infrastructure and Cities portfolio, led by James McGrath. This will ensure we have a specific focus on cities when it comes to our policy development. No one is more passionate about the trades and training in this Parliament than Scotty Buchholz. I held the Skills portfolio in the last term as Deputy Leader and I'm deeply passionate about seeing the next generation of apprentices and trainees thrive. Scott will bring great enthusiasm and be a champion for so much in this sector. Phil Thompson will contribute further to our team as the Shadow Assistant Minister for Defence and also Shadow Assistant Minister for the NDIS. Matt O'Sullivan will serve as Shadow Assistant Minister for Infrastructure, as well as Fisheries and Forestry. The Coalition will provide that constructive check and balance this term and I really look forward to getting out of Canberra and into the communities, over the weeks ahead, to connect with ordinary Australians, Australians who are doing it tough and the wonderful, wonderful communities that make up this great country. Over to you, David.

THE HON DAVID LITTLEPROUD MP, LEADER OF THE NATIONALS: Well, thanks Sussan and saying that, in getting out of here. Can I say that my thoughts are with those flood-affected communities? Those that I went to on Friday, to Kempsey, in Macksville and, in fact, on Monday back out to Jundah in my own electorate, that was basically washed away in April. They haven't been forgotten and they're not being forgotten and I'm heading straight from here back to the flood zone to be with Alison Penfold and Pat Conaghan have done an amazing job and I thank the Prime Minister for going and visiting and making sure they understand that the Australian people are with them and that this will be a recovery journey that we all go on together. Sussan and I will make that commitment about making sure that this is a bi-partisan approach and it is important, they know that we are focused on them. This morning our party room made the decision to re-join the Coalition after, obviously, the party room meeting of the Liberal Party on Friday. And I thank the Liberal Party and the leadership of Sussan in getting to that position to make sure there's understanding the way forward that the focus now is on Anthony Albanese and the Labor Government and holding them to account - that's important for our democracy. That's important for Australians that they know we've laid the foundation stones of a Coalition that can move forward and work to together to ensure that we hold them to account, but also have an alternative government in three years. And so, this is an important step that we make and in respect of our changes, there aren't as many, but there are significant ones. We are moving Darren Chester into Veterans Affairs. Senator Ross Caddell will come into the Shadow Cabinet and will take over where Perin Davey, who sadly, has lost her spot in the Senate and as Deputy Leader. Ross will come in as the new Water, Fisheries, Forestries and Emergency Services Minister. In fact, he will be with me tomorrow in visiting these disaster-affected areas. Anne Webster will be the new Shadow Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Regional Telecommunications and I'm glad and privileged that Sussan is now, for the first time in a long time, bringing one of The Nationals into the economic team. Pat Conaghan will be Shadow Assistant Treasurer and Shadow Minister for Financial Services and I think it is important to draw on that diversity. Pat, while a lawyer, is also a small business person, one that has great intellect and one that I gave significant credit to and opportunity to in the last Parliament, along with Anne, to show their wares and to be able to move forward. And Anne did that with her passion and pride in Regional Health and it's important that we continue to harness and nurture the next generation that are coming through that have the passion and ideas to add to what the Liberal Party will bring to the table. And in terms of Assistant

Shadow Ministers, Sam Birrell will become the Shadow Assistant Minister for Regional Health and Education. Andrew Wilcox will be the Shadow Assistant Minister for Manufacturing and Sovereign Capability and Jamie Chaffey, a self-made man, he knocked on over 25,000 doors in the seat of Parkes. Now, this is a man of great conviction, of great work ethic, and it is a man that has led his community as Mayor in Gunnedah, but also as the NSW Country Mayors Association President, that should be given an opportunity to shine and given an opportunity to come forward as the new Shadow Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Resources. There are changes around making sure that we continually move forward as a party and I made some of those changes after the last election and I'm continuing to make sure that the legacy of our party room isn't just around policy, but it's also about people. About the people that come through to make sure that we have the leaders, in the next generation, that'll fly the flag for the National Party, and I'm proud to do that and do that with Susan, in such a constructive way, and now is the time to take on its government and make sure the Australian people know that this Coalition is focused on them. Thank you.

SUSSAN LEY: Thank you, okay, we'll go to questions. Phil.

JOURNALIST: Thanks Ms Ley, can I ask, Jane Hume is not on the list. Did she ask not to be on the frontbench or is she just being relegated?.

SUSSAN LEY: While I don't reflect on private conversations, I will say this, that these are tough days and having been through many days like this myself and my parliamentary career, I recognise that. But what I do want to say about Jane Hume is she is an enormously talented, fantastic member of this team who has contributed amazingly over her political career, will continue to do so, and is a strong performer across a range of different subject areas.

JOURNALIST: Is she being punished out of personal vengeance for supporting Angus Taylor in the leadership vote and how can you justify her not being in the frontbench when you've got the likes of Alex Hawke and James McGrath who have been catapulted into [Shadow] Cabinet? Has this been a bit of a 'get square' process?

SUSSAN LEY: Absolutely not. I'm not going to reflect on the qualities of individuals, with respect to the qualities of other individuals. I don't think that's a fair question and I don't think the premise of it is reasonable. But what I will repeat, is that having spoken to every single member of my 54-member party room today, I know that we have harnessed the talent that we need in this Shadow Ministry going forward, but that there is a role for every single person. An opposition is not about hierarchies, it's not about structure, it's about getting every player on the field, fighting the fight, because this is not about the internals that you have just spoken of, this is about how we go out there to work hard for the Australian people. Mark?

JOURNALIST: Can I ask a question of each of you? First, you've put Jacinta Price into Defence Industry which, in government, is a Cabinet position, but she's not in Shadow Cabinet. Why is that? And Mr Littleproud, no position for Barnaby Joyce or for Michael McCormack. Are you picking a fight you can win?

SUSSAN LEY: I spoke to Jacinta, yesterday, about her new appointment. She's very excited to take it up. There is no more important area than safety, national security and defence and you will see a great profiling of defence under Angus Taylor as we go forward in this term of opposition. And I'm delighted that Jacinta is taking up what is a really vital role and her style of communication, her relationship with Australian people will be incredibly valuable.

DAVID LITTLEPROUD: This isn't about winning or losing, Mark. This is about the right thing and I made it clear after the last election, that I wanted to have generational change and continue to do that and to nurture those new members that have come forward to draw on their skills, their diversity, and made it clear that was a journey that I was going to continue on. And I made the decision, predicated on the future of the party. And I think both former leaders have the party at the core of who they are and what they are. This is about making sure that the course of our party room is one that is collegiate, is always brutally honest, which is a good thing, which is a great thing, that the Nats are prepared to put it out there and then go and have a steak and a beer. But this is about the future and the future of our party and where we go for the next hundred years.

JOURNALIST: My question is to both of you. After last week's bitter break up, how can voters be sure that this partnership will be sustained, given that you've come to this party room a little bit like two parents who couldn't decide, in a divorce, who looks after the kids?

SUSSAN LEY: Well Andrew, I don't accept the word, 'bitter'. And, you know, people have used this, 'break up' terminology. I agree that this is a professional partnership between two really strong parties in our Australian democracy that work very well when they work together. But personally, David and I will be friends. I think a woman who got her start, in the shearing sheds of Western Queensland, can always find something to talk about over a steak and a beer, David, with you - the person who represents those communities now. So, we will, 100 per cent take this forward, together. We will be stronger together, better together and we can't wait to do this, on behalf of the Australian people, that we wake up every morning to fight for.

DAVID LITTLEPROUD: Because we've laid the boundaries, we've learned the foundation stones and while there's been gossip and innuendo, through the halls of the Gallery, let me be clear: Sussan and I have always kept the lines of communication up, but we've risen above that, we haven't let us get distracted by what's been reported. We've always made sure that this was the end goal, but there were principles that we talked about. And it took Sussan and the leadership, that she took over, to get her party room to that position. That took great strength. Then I say, not only to Sussan, but to her party room, to understand that. And we reciprocate that, we know that this is a partnership, but what we have done today is set the foundation stones to say to the Australian people, that we know who we are, we know where we're going, and that we are focused on you.

JOURNALIST: A question for both of you, individually and collectively. You both have a mammoth task ahead to get the Coalition back to a competitive position. Ms Ley, nearly half your party room didn't support you in the leadership ballot and Mr Littleproud, even today, there's people saying that you misled them in talks. Are you confident that you will both be standing here, as leaders, in three years time?

SUSSAN LEY: I'm confident that we both will and while people reflect on the votes and the conversations inside my individual party room, I know that everyone agreed in walking out of this party room, not that many days ago, to unite behind our leadership and to work very hard, because I am delighted to have, in my party room, people who are not there for the criss-cross of the internal conversation, but are there for the big job, they're up for the big task, of working hard to provide the opposition that this country needs, that it deserves, and that the millions of Australians that voted for us, expect.

DAVID LITTLEPROUD: And happy to say, I respect Mr Boyce, but with respect of misleading the party room, it was very clear, the policies that he's talking about, gas, that was a Coalition policy, one in which I actually had some concerns about, as well, because the gas that he talks about in Gladstone actually comes from my electorate. There's a big pipeline that goes out that takes it. With respect to net zero, both sides have made it very clear that that was one of the policies in which we would review and look at our own respective organisations and what that might look like. The issue was about those four policies that were legacy policies of the party room.

JOURNALIST: Are you saying you should've told the party that you asked to be exempt from Shadow Cabinet solidarity?

DAVID LITTLEPROUD: Well, with respect, in terms of a number of these conversations and that wasn't, and I've made this very clear, on a number of occasions, this wasn't about a free-for-all around [Shadow] Cabinet solidarity. There has been a number of occasions. One, if you go back to the AWB single desk decision. That was the first decision, where the National Party broke away from Cabinet solidarity, some 30 years ago, 20 years ago. And, as I've articulated around the Voice, I wanted to make sure it wasn't a demand, it was a conversation and Sussan was quite clear that the parameters that we have [were] ones that we should continue to adhere to. I wasn't asking for a free-for-all and that was not something that, I think, was appropriate to share. The fact that it's been ruminated out here, because, I don't want a free-for-all in my party room, I wanna know that we respect the structures and processes that we have for 80-plus years. And so it was important that we set that down. And I did want to see the relationship that I set-back with Peter, around the Voice, that if there was something that we were [un]comfortable with, then we would move towards it, but Sussan was very clear on that and that's what I respect about, while you talk about the gossip, we talk about the facts of the conversation.

JOURNALIST: Ms Ley, two weeks ago, you stood here in your first press conference as Leader and said no policies on the table and no policies off the table. You needed to listen to Australians. Nuclear energy was a central pitch of the Coalition, in the last election, in which you were resoundingly voted out in a lot of seats. How can you stand here now and say that it's okay to have nuclear locked-in as a policy, when there hasn't been that review, that conversation, that listening with the public, that you were talking about two weeks ago.

SUSSAN LEY: It's important to recognise that in agreeing, as we have with respect to nuclear energy, that the removal of the moratorium is an important first step. It's also important to note that there will be development of the detail of any further policy, with respect to nuclear, after that point. So, that's where we're starting and the policy development that you speak of, that does require that consultative engagement, across our parties, will continue.

JOURNALIST: Ms Ley, two questions, if I may, just by a quick read of this, it looks like there's 26 or 27 members in the Shadow Cabinet. Is that correct? And secondly, Claire Chandler, Sarah Henderson, Jane Hume dumped and Jacinta Price demoted, four conservative women. Why is that?

SUSSAN LEY: We have the same number of members in the Shadow Cabinet as the government has in the Cabinet. It's important to understand that that's where the link to the numbers is. I don't accept that terminology. This is a new parliament with a new Leader, a fresh approach that I always sought to undertake and have undertaken and looking back into the previous government, there were positions that people held and they did extraordinarily good jobs in those positions. This is a new parliament with new people being elected and a new agenda moving forward. I am thrilled that I have so many terrific colleagues. And those that, as I said earlier, are not on this list are certainly incredibly valued and will continue to play that very, very important role that all of us must in opposition.

JOURNALIST: I just wanted to ask what was the rationale for appointing Dan Tehan into energy and on that you've made some comments about, you know, we do need to get emissions down, but not at any cost. Will you consider dropping net zero over the next few months and at the start of this term?

SUSSAN LEY: We'll have those discussions inside the policy development process. Everyone would agree, and colleagues particularly, that Dan Tehan is an excellent appointment in this space. Dan has been a valued colleague over many, many years. I've known him for the last 25 years. What he brings to this is the detail policy smarts, the ability to relate to a range of interests, stakeholders, sectors, individuals, communities. But an overriding determination, as we all have, that we do get this right. So I am looking forward to the really important piece of work that Dan is going to do, supported by Senator Dean Smith and consulting across our party rooms.

JOURNALIST: You've mentioned previously, of course, that your job is about modernising the Liberal Party and a large part of this discussion is around making sure that women feel that they're seen in the party. Now from, again, correct me if I'm wrong, but it seems that there are no women in the economic sector sections you've taken a woman away from the early learning portfolio, which is predominantly a feminised industry, do you think that, is this the final makeup of this modern Liberal Party that we are expecting?

SUSSAN LEY: This is a fantastic line up. There's an assistant minister, incidentally, in the early learning area that will do a terrific job and I know that everyone who speaks across the range of different portfolios will do so with an economic lens because we do have to get the economic narrative right. And I just refer you to the outstanding mentions of the women who are stepping up in this line up.

JOURNALIST: A question for both of you please, we've already had today Matt Canavan and Barnaby Joyce coming out and saying they'll agitate for net zero to be dropped from the backbench. In terms of reviewing that and getting to a final position on it ahead of the next election how long does that take? And if it drags on, do you not think that'll sort of derail, you've got this agitation from the backbench, will this not derail your attempts to have a stronger showing at the next election?

SUSSAN LEY: Well, I'll refer to David about those individual comments obviously. But what I want to say is that one of the traditions that our parties share is the ability to speak freely on the backbench. It's

not something you can do in the Labor Party. It's not something you can ever do in the Labor Party, but we value it and we love the expression that people want to make about a whole range of different areas of policy, and that is one of them. So going forward, I have great confidence we will get this right.

DAVID LITTLEPROUD: And in respect to that, As Sussan's made it very clear, each sovereign party formulates their own policies, and then we come together through the coalition process. We had a number of iterations in the last Parliament around questions around net zero, and no doubt that will happen again, but we'll put in place proper processes and structures to make sure that that diversity of ideas is put forward and I think that's a good thing that's a healthy thing. I think what encourages me is the appointment of Dan Tehan. Dan's eminently sensible. He's a pragmatist, he's a realist and he knows the real life experience of the lived experience of regional Australians and the impact of this all renewables approach that the Albanese government is going down, so we will obviously have our internal discussions as a Liberal Party and then as we've done for 80 years, we'll come together in a way that we can have that discussion in a mature, constructive manner and that process is one that isn't about kicking it down the road but doing it right.

JOURNALIST: How many ministry positions do the Nationals have and is that an adequate number in your view?

DAVID LITTLEPROUD: Yeah, it's always predicated on arithmetic. So we've got six in the inner cabinet and two in the outer. Arithmetic has always predicated this, and I think John Howard was famously said, "politics is governed by the iron laws of arithmetic", and that fits for the Liberal Party and the National Party. And that was a guiding principle from the start. It's been a guiding principle for many years. And the fact that we had Jacinta Nampijinpa Price in the Cabinet extra last time was around the fact that Julian Leeser resigned and we needed to replace him. We were disappointed that Jacinta left us, but I was proud of the fact that we were the first to support her and the no case in our party room. We got that cabinet position for her to give her that platform, but she has ambition beyond what my party room can give and I don't think I should put my personal disappointment above somebody who has the ambition to have a higher office than what the National Party. I think I've gotta be bigger than that and think about the country and we wish her well in whatever endeavour she gets in terms of achieving that but why should we put a ceiling on someone that has ambition.

JOURNALIST: Just on that arithmetic, your colleagues have blamed the Liberal Party for losing two Senate seats over the last few weeks, have you come to an agreement with either the Liberal Party or with the Prime Minister regarding the party status of the Nationals in the upper house? And do you hope for a development?

DAVID LITTLEPROUD: Well, we'll work through that and I think there's some conversations in the Senate, I won't profess to be an expert on the operations of the Senate, but both Senate teams are working through that about making sure that there is a status that can be remained for the National Party and I think there's constructive talks that Sussan and I had about making sure that that that remains. And I think that's been the conversations that has been happening that well, you've heard much of the gossip in the background, and the reality is the real conversations that we're addressing, these real problems.

JOURNALIST: Just a question on parliamentary culture, today Fatima Payman disclosed that she had made a formal complaint with the PWSS in regards to an older male colleague. I'm just hoping you can reflect as the first ever woman of the Liberal Party if you think there has been an improvement in parliamentary culture over the last few years and if you could be pushing for greater mechanisms to make women, particularly women in your own party feel safe in their workplace?

SUSSAN LEY: I read that report with great concern and it is simply not good enough to have that behaviour take place in this building. Now, I was part of the formation of PWSS and a great deal of process in the last parliament, that means that people in this situation have a place to go, but it is vital that reporting of events like this are a reminder to everybody that we must never take our eye off the ball when it comes to continuous improvement in the culture in this building.

JOURNALIST: Can I just clarify net zero? Mr Littleproud I think last week you said it remained National Party policy and your deputy said that on the weekend as well. Are you now saying it is under review?

DAVID LITTLEPROUD: Well, well, in our culture of our party room as it was in the last term, in terms before that, members of our party room are free to come forward and to either bring new policy or challenge existing policies. We support net zero by 2050. That was the position we took to the election and –

JOURNALIST: Is that the liberal position as well? Do you still support net zero?

SUSSAN LEY: It's important, David, as I said that we look at energy policy as a whole going forward. We have to play as a country, our part in the global response to climate change. Net zero, Paris targets, gas all of the resources conversations around critical minerals, they're all part of that. We have to get this right. We have to play our part, but we have to make sure that we don't do it at any cost. So what I'm simply saying is by doing the work that will be led by Dan Tehan, we will make sure that we reflect everyone's voice and the very real concerns that I know many Australians have. Which is that you can't have an energy policy that crashes our energy grid and you have to recognise the great manufacturing base of this country and its built on reliable, secure base load power.

JOURNALIST: Just to follow up on that, can you explain why the energy portfolio has changed from energy and climate change to energy and emissions reduction?

SUSSAN LEY: Look different governments, give different titles and at one stage there were so many titles on a minister that they couldn't fit on a business card, in the days that we had business cards. I actually just look at the substance of what's going on and the policy areas. And don't get hung up on the titles.

JOURNALIST: David Littleproud, are Barnaby Joyce and Michael McCormack being punished for speaking out on the Coalition split?

DAVID LITTLEPROUD: No, I've made it clear when I became leader three years ago that I wanted to have generational change, but at that point, I wanted to respect the leadership that was before me to allow them to part their wisdom, their experience on the party room in nurturing the next generation. And when

you look at what Pat Conaghan, Anne Webster did in the last term, they put the shoulder to the wheel. Pat Conaghan was a guy that came up single handedly in support with Matt Canavan on our vaping policy, drove it together but they did the grunt work and when you've got people like that with the calibre I've got to continue to move forward. I know it's disappointing that people don't get positions but it doesn't diminish their position in our party room. There's still people that are highly respected within our party room who will be drawn on, just in a different capacity. But you do have to look forward and this is the tough decisions Sussan had to make, I had to make. They're not great conversations, but unfortunately the ones you have to have sometimes.

JOURNALIST: In the past week and a bit, looking back from your actions from the get go, is there anything you do differently and also do you regret or have you apologised to Ms Ley for taking the speedy actions you took in the period when her mother was dying?

DAVID LITTLEPROUD: No. Well, with due respect, we made sure Sussan and I worked through that at a pace that she was comfortable with. Well, with respect, I was working with the Liberal leader who is the Opposition Leader and I needed to respect the processes and the pace as well as where we wanted to land in terms of getting an opposition ready. So we respected that all the way through. We were sensitive around that, so much so that I made, instead of asking, Sussan offered to fly back to Canberra to have our first meeting. I made it clear that I didn't want her to leave her mother.

JOURNALIST: Sussan Ley, you have a new Shadow Minister for the Public Service and Government Services in James Paterson. Does this mark a new approach from the Coalition to the public service and how would you characterise that?

SUSSAN LEY: I think it's important that we value the work that the public service does, but then in making policy around the public service, we consider all views and we consider the cost. So James Paterson is going to bring an incredibly bright, smart approach to the entire finance portfolio and be part of an economic team that really drives home an economic agenda that holds this government to account. Thank you very much everybody.

[ENDS]