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

TRANSCRIPT
INTERVIEW WITH STAV, ABBY AND MATT
B105 BRISBANE

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E&OE…

MATT ACTON:

He is here with us right now. Good morning, mate.

LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION, THE HON ANGUS TAYLOR MP:

Great to be with you, thanks for having me.

ABBY COLEMAN:

First time meeting you, it feels like, you know, a new relationship and then we were kind of like, what do we know about him? We were just talking, I guess, off air, the fact that you are from Goulburn, you've lived there for a while?

LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION:

Yeah, yeah, just outside of Goulburn on a farm. So, farming family, sixth generation farming family. So, we live near Goulburn, but my two brothers farm full-time near Cooma, edge of the Snowy Mountains.

ABBY COLEMAN:

Do you have to go back and help out?

LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION:

Yeah, look on weekends when I don't get much of a weekend these days. But when I'm there, I try to get out and have a look around. I love it. I just love it.

MATT ACTON:

Do your brothers always go on about your soft hands.

LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION:

Yeah, they do. Hundred per cent!

ABBY COLEMAN:

Oh, look at him in a suit!

LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION:

No, dirt under the fingernails for you at the moment, right? Yeah, no, that's a big thing, you know? You know something about farming.

ABBY COLEMAN:

He's from up north, so there you go.

MATT ACTON:

All my mates would say the same about me, they're all tradies.

LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION:

There you go, there you go.

ABBY COLEMAN:

Now there is, I guess, we were saying many times that so many people are into politics at the moment, I guess, because of the hardship, everyone's finding it tough, and I think all over the world, people are kind of going, we just want some sort of solution to either the cost of living or what we're actually doing. And there has been, I guess a trend to put down the current Government, but then not offer a solution. So I guess how do you guys think that you might run things a bit different?

LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION:

We are doing something that oppositions haven't done for a long time, which is to lay out a plan every day. So, I'm out there the whole time talking about what our plan is to get rid of the taxes that are hurting small business, to get rid of the waste, the red tape, get energy costs down.

So, this is unusual for an opposition, but we've got to do it because people want change. They think the country is heading in the wrong direction. That's really clear. I hear it wherever I go. I get pulled up here in Brisbane, wherever I go, people are saying this, and that's why I think laying out a plan now early is important. It means we're a target because we've been clear about what we want to do. But I think you've got to do it now. I think that's what's changed.

MATT ACTON:

We should quickly mention too, Angus, we do this now with politicians, and we're not saying that you're going to do it, but sometimes they have a tendency to give really long answers.

LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION:

Yeah, you ring the bell.

ABBY COLEMAN:

Yeah.

LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION:

I was looking for the bell just then. It hasn't come out yet.

ABBY COLEMAN:

And we've all got one each. But you know, sometimes you ask a question and you just feel like you're getting gas lit over an answer. So you just want to be able to click it.

MATT ACTON:

Could you tell us the top three things you will get rid of to save money for the country? Because the overspending is a big issue for people at the moment.

LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION:

Yeah, so right at the top of the list is people on welfare programmes, on the NDIS, who are coming to the country who aren't citizens, right. Look, we are a generous country, we've always been a generous country, but our welfare programs, particularly our NDIS, should be focused on Australian citizens. We won't change that for people who are already here, but we've got to make sure that charity begins at home and right now it's tough times for a lot of people. So, we've got to look after Australians first. So that's top of the list. Energy, there's all sorts of nonsense programmes. Chris Bowen's got 150 million bucks to go over to COP in Turkey. You know, this is all wasted money.

MATT ACTON:

So, you wouldn't be at COP?

LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION:

We wouldn't be spending $150 million on COP, I can tell you, and it's just nonsense, because they're the co-president, all of that. But there's other energy programmes, the green hydrogen nonsense, which has gone nowhere, and he knows it. And then some of the corporate handouts. I mean, there's handouts to companies, big companies, you know, out of the US, this company on the west coast of the US, Psy-Quantum, it's called.

I mean, seriously? Why are we giving money to big companies at a time when Australians are really struggling to make ends meet? So, we've laid out $31 billion of savings just a couple of weeks ago, and that's fair enough. This is a time when if every family and small business is having to tighten its belt, the Government should tighten its belt.

STAV DAVIDSON:

Is it weird having to think of numbers that large when you do this sort of thing, that's an astounding amount of, and I know our national debt is sitting around a trillion. It's unfathomable, isn't it?

LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION:

Yeah, there's so many zeros there now people just, their eyes close over, I understand that. But in the end, if we're going to get inflation and interest rates down and avoid higher taxes, we've got to find savings. That's my background, you know, farming family, I tell you what, you learn it early. Every drum of drench, every fence post, it's all got to be accounted for properly and you spend your money well.

ABBY COLEMAN:

There has been many times where Labor has not got along well with the Greens but then require them to get a lot of things passed and it is that sort of relationship. What do you feel like your relationship is like with Pauline Hanson?

LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION:

Look, we'll work with anyone who helps us to do what we want to do. So we're against these taxes Labor's been bringing in on housing, on investment, on small businesses, the trust tax. We want to roll them all back, we want to stop them. We'll roll them back on getting into government straight away, but we're happy to work with One Nation or anyone else. We will work with anyone. I mean I'm about where we want the country to go and we'll work with anyone to do it.

MATT ACTON:

Right, well, we do need to go to a break. The bell's good because you've been very succinct.

LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION:

I'm watching for your fingers.

ABBY COLEMAN:

Do you know what I'm taking this to? The after meeting.

LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION:

It’s like The Voice, right?

MATT ACTON:

If you have a question for Angus. Feel free to call through now. Angus Taylor, Leader of the Opposition, 131060 is our number. A little birdie told us that Natalie Imbruglia, Torn is your favourite song?

LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION:

I'm a fan, yeah.

ABBY COLEMAN:

Is that true?

LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION:

I do like it. You know it's a cover. It's actually not an original.

MATT ACTON:

So is this your karaoke song?

LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION:

Oh, I do like it. My karaoke tends to go to The, but anyway.

[Break]

ABBY COLEMAN:

Yes, Angus Taylor is in the studio. Are you ready to take some calls?

LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION:

Of course, always.

ABBY COLEMAN:

Because you would, I guess, you know, you're on the campaign trail. I go, no, when exactly? We don't know.

LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION:

The election will be some way away.

ABBY COLEMAN:

Yes, but that must feel, I guess, gruelling in the sense that you have a lot of people coming up to you in person asking the difference and feeling like you've still got a long time before you can make that difference.

LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION:

Yeah, it feels like we're in a campaign now, but we're probably as much as 18 months out. So, but I just think that politics, as you said earlier, everyone's talking about it, they're all much more interested in it than normal. And so when I walk down the street, anyway, I cop these questions.

ABBY COLEMAN:

Would you say that your kids, I guess, obviously, because of you, they would be into it, but it does feel like kids these days are taking more of an interest than we would have at their age?

LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION:

In a different way, because of course, most of it's online, most of it's on their phones. It's not through the more traditional media. So it's a different kind of engagement. But yeah, I think there is an interest. There is an interest, there's no question about that.

STAV DAVIDSON:

Well let's get to it, Stav, Abbie and Matt's question time.

ABBY COLEMAN:

Are you gonna yell or what?

STAV DAVIDSON:

We got Chris there in Springfield Lakeshore with Angus with your question?

[Listener Question]

LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION:

So, can I be clear, I'm willing to work with them on our plan, on what we want to achieve. I think that's the point I made a few minutes ago. It's a good question. So we know what we want. We want to get rid of Labor's toxic taxes. We want energy costs down. We want to get back to the skilled immigration that's been so important to this country. We want put Australians first. And anything that One Nation is prepared to do to support our plan we'll work with them. We'll work the Greens. We don't really care. We're interested in the outcomes for Australians, and that's where we start, and we'll work with anyone to do it.

So will we back them on policies that we don't agree with, like the sorts of things you were just talking about? Absolutely not. Absolutely not! I mean.

MATT ACTON:

When you say toxic taxes, two I think that are affecting people massively, people might seem important, but the cigarette tax has been an issue with illegal cigarettes, right? And alcohol, something like 80 per cent of the cost of a bottle of rum is tax. Will we see that wound back?

LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION:

So tobacco, we've already announced that we'll slash the excise by 80 per cent. And the reason we'll do this is because the criminal gangs have been funded by illegal tobacco in this country and 80 per cent of the tobacco being purchased in Australia now is illegal, probably higher, more like 85. So the government's lost control and so we'll slash the excise, get the criminal gangs out, spend more on law enforcement and get it back to being a legal trade again.

STAV DAVIDSON:

What about the booze?

LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION:

The booze is, look we haven't made any announcement on this, we're watching it very closely because we think illegal booze is moving into the pubs in particular and we're working with the industry to look closely at how quickly that's moving but it's a big deal, it's clear.

MATT ACTON:

All right. Tanya, in Deebing Heights, you're on. What's your question?

[Listener Question]

LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION:

Alright, I think, I'm not sure whether that was a state or federal program, but anyway, regardless, look, this is a massive issue with families being able to afford what their kids need for school. And we see that wherever we go. Look, the number one thing for us is to get inflation and interest rates down because that's across the board. It's absolutely everything. And the way to do that is reduce government spending. It's out of control. It is absolutely out of control. We've laid out $30 billion of savings, $31 billion, and we'll continue to, we just can't continue to see a trillion dollars of debt and waste, which is driving up inflation and interest rates. So we've got to contain this growth in prices of everything that we're seeing right now. That's the number one priority.

STAV DAVIDSON:

We got Bruce on the phone from Chapel Hill. Bruce, you're on with Angus. What's your question?

[Listener Question]

LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION:

Yeah, look, it's a great question, because so many people say to me, all right, great, Angus, we're gonna have an election in 18 months time or so, but I'm not sure my small business or my family can last 18 months. And I feel the pain of this. I had a small business person in tears in front of me yesterday, saying, 'My business just won't survive 18 months.' We're going to fight every day till the next election to stop some of these things that are hurting Australians. So the taxes on small business, the taxes — we talked about tobacco a moment ago. And we're gonna fight. In the end you've got to have the numbers in a parliament to win, but we'll work with anyone who wants to work with us to implement our plan. And what we're doing that's different is we laid out our plan and we're fighting for it every day because Australians can't wait. I realise there's that real pain. The election is the most important moment, but we're going to keep fighting all the way to the election.

MATT ACTON:

Alright, before we let you go, this is one thing I think we need to try and do. You look a bit like 007 in this.

ABBY COLEMAN:

We did get a press and we were trying to work out, like it's a press photo, I think you've got a sidelight.

LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION:

There's a strange sidelight in that photo.

MATT ACTON:

Can you just say the name's Taylor, Angus Taylor?

LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION:

The name's Taylor, Angus Taylor. But who's the best James Bond?

MATT ACTON:

Sorry?

LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION:

Who is the best ever James Bond?

MATT ACTON:

Oh, you got to talk to him about that.

ABBY COLEMAN:

Oh, and that is very much off air because I will be *[rings bell]*.

LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION:

We got to go, we got to go. Just at the critical moment.

[ENDS]