THE HON. KEVIN HOGAN MP
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR PAGE
SHADOW ASSISTANT TREASURER
SHADOW MINISTER FOR FINANCIAL SERVICES

TRANSCRIPT

Interview on ABC Radio National
Topics: *Job cuts, immigration, gas reservation scheme*

E&OE

SALLY SARA: Kevin Hogan is the Shadow Assistant Treasurer and Shadow Minister for Financial Services and joins me now. Kevin Hogan, welcome back.

KEVIN HOGAN: Good to talk to you, Sally.

SALLY SARA: We've heard this morning, in the past half hour from the ACTU about their concerns over job cuts and the impact of artificial intelligence on the Australian workforce.

Do you share some of those concerns about AI and what it will mean for jobs?

KEVIN HOGAN: Yeah, I think with any technological change, there's displacement and disruption, and we've seen in the past, and there'll be some areas that may do well out of it, but there'll certainly be some areas that it really makes it competitive and difficult for.

So, I share those concerns. A lot of those questions unanswered. We're not sure how some of those ramifications will be, but absolutely.

SALLY SARA: The Australian Bureau of Stats released its latest wage price index yesterday. Wages grew three-point five percent over the year to September. Given that underlying inflation was three-point six percent in the 12 months to September, what do you make of the real situation here?

KEVIN HOGAN: Yeah, real wages are going down, so obviously while nominal wages are increasing with the inflation rate, and as you know, Sally, and most of your listeners would know, we have one of the highest core inflation rates in the world. As you said, our core inflation rate's three-point six percent. In the US, it's in the twos, and the UK it's in the twos, and in some European countries it has a one in front of it.

So, we have a very high underlying persistent core inflation, which most senior economists say lays at the feet of the government and some of the policies that they have.

SALLY SARA: You're listening to Radio National Breakfast and you're hearing from the Shadow Assistant Treasurer, Kevin Hogan.

Yesterday, One Nation unveiled a plan to cut Australia's refugee intake by ninety percent and scrap a visa program for the parents of migrants. In the coalition's view, do these proposals have any merit?

KEVIN HOGAN: We have announced our immigration policy previously, and with the humanitarian refugee program, we've halved it.

So, it's twenty thousand and we've cut it to ten thousand. So, we've announced our policy there. And this is a very expensive program. So, these are people that are taken out of refugee camps from different UN camps around the world. And we have a very generous scheme in Australia.

So those people, when they come to Australia, we give them housing, we give them language courses, we give them a whole lot of programs to help them assimilate it as best we can.

SALLY SARA: How long is housing provided?

KEVIN HOGAN: I think it depends too on some of the people and their circumstances.

For some it would be shorter than others.

SALLY SARA: But there's no permanent housing provided to refugees.

KEVIN HOGAN: No, but it's very generous. It's a very generous program, and that's why it's always been capped. So, we've halved it to ten thousand. And we understand the reason, and we have the reasons for that.

SALLY SARA: Should people who have arrived be able to bring their parents out as well?

KEVIN HOGAN: What we're saying, and the reason that most parties around the country are looking at cutting immigration at the moment is we have a huge infrastructure problem.

We, at the moment, as we know, don't have enough houses for people who currently live in Australia. Rents are through the roof. People can't afford their rent. So, we have to look at both supply side issues to get more housing onto the market, and we're looking at that. But we have to also, hopefully only temporarily, cut some of these immigration programs until we catch up with the massive shortage of housing we have in this country.

SALLY SARA: Do you think people bringing their parents to Australia is contributing to the housing crisis?

KEVIN HOGAN: Well, if those parents come and they stay for a long time and obviously not all parents live in the same house as the people they come and see. But look, we're looking at everything. Obviously, there's things that we're not cutting the refugee program completely. We're just scaling it back.

SALLY SARA: Halving it.

KEVIN HOGAN: Yeah, that's right, we're halving it. And this is being done because there's people in Australia right now who can't afford to rent a home or can't find a home to move into because there aren't enough.

So that's our primary issue, and we have to resolve that issue before we start relooking again at immigration numbers.

SALLY SARA: How do you see Australia's, obligations internationally to take some refugees? What's the coalition's view on that?

KEVIN HOGAN: Well, we always have. We've always had a refugee program. I think historically under us it was always around that thirteen, fourteen thousand mark. And I'd say, Sally, that if you look around the world and the refugee program that Australia has, when refugees arrive in Australia, they have probably one of the best programs around the world of getting support from the government, and that's why we cap the numbers.

SALLY SARA: You're listening to Breakfast. I'm hearing from Kevin Hogan, shadow assistant treasurer and shadow minister for financial services. Let's talk about gas. The government is trying to secure the coalition's support for its proposed gas reservation scheme. One Nation leader Pauline Hanson says she believes that an exemption for WA from the scheme is not constitutional.

Does the coalition agree?

KEVIN HOGAN: Well, that will be decided. We're very conscious of a carve-out for WA because there's unique circumstances over there. They have their own scheme. They have their own processes over there. So, we're looking at how that will work. Whether it's constitutional or not will be looked at by constitutional lawyers, and there's difference of opinions on that.

But we're conscious of Western Australia having a unique situation.

SALLY SARA: Does WA deserve a carve-out, in your view?

KEVIN HOGAN: Yeah, I think there's unique issues with WA. They really have their own system over there. And their own gas reservation policy and their system's a little bit different from the East Coast.

So, I think there's nuances about Western Australia that need to be recognised.

SALLY SARA: If the government agreed to a carve-out for WA, would that go a long way to the coalition supporting the gas reservation?

KEVIN HOGAN: We support the gas reservation in principle. Obviously, there's other things that we want to be part of this. We want more gas brought onto the market. Gas is an important export for us. It's important for our domestic energy needs as well. So, at the moment the gas industry is saying it's very difficult to get approvals here. It's very difficult. There's lots of costs involved with it, red tape, green tape.

So, we're looking at other issues around this bigger issue of the gas reservation program. But we're open to it, absolutely.

SALLY SARA: Kevin Hogan, thank you so much for being my guest this morning.

KEVIN HOGAN: Thanks, Sally.

SALLY SARA: Kevin Hogan is the shadow assistant treasurer and shadow minister for financial services.

ENDS

Thursday 19 November 2026