

**A STRONGER ECONOMY
A STRONGER AUSTRALIA**



THE HOWARD GOVERNMENT ELECTION 2004 POLICY

STRONGER BORDER PROTECTION



STRONGER BORDER PROTECTION

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Globalisation, with its vastly expanded flows of trade, finance and people, has created more opportunities for transnational crime, including the illegal movement of drugs, arms and people. It is estimated that four million people are smuggled each year across borders, earning people smugglers around \$US10 billion.

The Coalition Government has worked to combat these modern criminal networks by pursuing greater international cooperation in law enforcement, by significantly bolstering Australia's intelligence capability, and by introducing enhanced border and financial controls.

Our resolute action has yielded results. A clear message has been heard throughout the world and, as a result, people smugglers have been denied their human cargoes.

Critics of our tough stance ignore two fundamental facts: We oversee one of the most generous migration programs in the world and, according to United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) figures, Australia is the third largest recipient of refugees for resettlement worldwide.

The Coalition strongly believes that Australia has the right to control the size, method and manner of our migration and refugee programs. Australians should decide who comes to Australia, not people smugglers.

We will continue to be generous to migrants and genuine refugees who make their claims through the proper channels. But we remain resolute in opposing unauthorized arrivals and the people smugglers who profit from their misery.

A re-elected Coalition Government will:

- Maintain our tough border protection policy, ensuring the integrity of our borders, and our sovereignty, by rigorously patrolling our maritime approaches;
- Retain the policies of excision, offshore processing (the "Pacific Solution") and mandatory detention that have acted as a powerful deterrent to illegal migration;
- Work cooperatively with countries in our region through the sharing of evidence and extradition arrangements to dismantle transnational criminal networks;
- Ensure migration cases continue to be dealt with quickly and fairly;

- Reduce access to courts where it is designed to delay and frustrate migration compliance action;
- Maintain our strong onshore and offshore compliance program to ensure that unlawful non-citizens working and living in the Australian community are swiftly returned to their homeland;
- Continue to value and support the role of the Australian Defence Force in border protection; and
- Provide additional resources to the Australian Customs Service, ensuring it has the technology and the intelligence capability it needs to put, and keep, people smugglers out of business.

PART 1 BORDER PROTECTION

The Australian Government's first priority must be to protect our borders.

Only Australian citizens and permanent residents should have the unrestricted right to travel to, and remain in, Australia. All other people must have an authority, issued by the Australian Government, to travel to, enter or stay in Australia.

The Coalition's border protection policy has two objectives: to deter people from arriving in Australia unlawfully, and to deal efficiently and humanely with people who arrive unlawfully, by either speedily returning them to their homeland, or by offering Australia's protection if they are genuine refugees.

Only a re-elected Coalition Government will protect Australia through a strong and proven border protection regime, ensuring safety for our citizens and the maintenance of our sovereignty.

(i) *A Responsible, Transparent and Accountable Migration Program*

The Coalition is committed to the effective management of the movement of people to Australia through a transparent and accountable migration program.

Since the 2001 election, the Coalition Government's policies have resulted in a marked reduction in the number of unauthorised arrivals and visa over-stayers in the Australian community.

In 2000-01, 54 boats brought a total of 4,137 people to Australia. As a result of the Coalition's initiatives, unauthorised arrivals by boat virtually had ceased by the latter half of 2001-02.

The Coalition's strategy:

- Intercepts illegal migrants and disrupts people smuggling operations offshore;
- Reduces the flow of people seeking to leave their homeland and travel to Australia by supporting global UNHCR efforts;
- Discourages unauthorised arrivals by promptly removing people who are not refugees and processing them offshore; and
- Removes incentives for people to illegally travel to Australia by minimising the taxpayer-funded benefits they can access.

(ii)

People Smuggling and Unauthorised Arrivals

People smuggling is now a criminal global enterprise estimated by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) to be worth \$US10 billion a year. Annually, there are an estimated 30 to 40 million illegal people movements.

While the Coalition Government is committed to meeting its obligations under the 1951 UN Convention on Refugees, we are also determined to deter people from attempting dangerous sea voyages in unsafe vessels to Australia's surrounding reefs and islands. And we remain determined to prevent abuse of Australia's orderly migration and humanitarian programs by those who seek to gain an unfair advantage by purchasing the services of people smugglers.

- **Excision from Migration Zone**

Only a re-elected Coalition Government can guarantee that Australia's northern islands will remain excised from our Migration Zone.

Our excision policy ensures that people smugglers cannot take their human cargo to islands where they can gain access to our Migration Zone and court system.

In contrast to this tough stance, Labor opposes this policy and has opposed the excision of thousands of islands from Australia's migration zone.

- **Offshore Processing**

A re-elected Coalition Government will maintain the "Pacific Solution" – the offshore processing of people attempting to arrive here illegally.

Illegal arrivals who land outside the Migration Zone will be transferred to offshore processing centres where their claims for asylum will be assessed.

Those processed offshore who are assessed as genuine refugees will be able to apply to third countries, including Australia, for re-settlement. We will continue to take refugees who have been assessed as genuine by the UNHCR.

This meets Australia's obligations under the UN Convention on Refugees while reducing the incentive for people making asylum claims to travel to Australia – where failed claims are frequently subject to long and expensive challenge in our courts.

- **International and Regional Cooperation**

Regional cooperation arrangements with our closest neighbours are key weapons in the international fight against people smugglers.

Coalition Government initiatives to prevent unauthorised arrivals include:

- Co-chairing with Indonesia two international summits to address the global problem of people smuggling – attended by representatives of nearly fifty countries;
- Addressing the humanitarian needs of displaced Afghans and Iraqis in the Middle East and South West Asia;
- Providing nearly \$100 million in 2002-03 in targeted humanitarian aid to countries of origin and first asylum; and
- Seeking reform of the international protection system to ensure that protection is available to those who need it, in the countries where they first seek asylum.

A re-elected Coalition Government will maintain our close working relationships with our neighbours to prevent any resurgence of people smuggling in our region.

(iii) Pursuing People Smugglers

The Coalition Government has vigorously pursued the extradition to Australia of those suspected of people smuggling. When this has not been successful, as an alternative course of action the Australian Government has offered to assist other countries in the preparation of prosecution cases against suspected people smugglers.

The Australian Government extradited Mr Ali Al Jenabi, an alleged people smuggler, from Thailand on 22 February 2003. He was extradited to face prosecution for 22 people smuggling offences, and was last week sentenced to eight years in prison.

Mr Ayoub was extradited from Thailand on 18 July 2003 to face 13 charges under the *Migration Act 1958*. His trial in Perth is ongoing.

The Thai Criminal Court is currently hearing an application for the extradition to Australia of Mr Masoud Ahmed Chaudry to face prosecution for people smuggling offences in contravention of the *Migration Act 1958*.

Mr Daoed was successfully extradited from Sweden in November 2003 to face prosecution on people smuggling charges. He was committed to stand trial on ten people smuggling charges on 28 July 2004.

Alleged people smuggler Abu Quassey is being tried in Egypt on charges of fraud and causing death through negligence. These charges relate directly to his alleged people smuggling activities including the sinking of the SIEV X in October 2001 killing an estimated 350 people.

(iv) Detention

Mandatory detention plays a significant role in maintaining the integrity of the migration program by ensuring that:

- Unauthorised arrivals do not enter the Australian community until their identity and status have been properly assessed and they have been granted a visa;
- People are immediately available for health and security checks which are a requirement for the grant of a visa; and
- People are readily available for removal from Australia if their visa applications are unsuccessful.

Australia's mandatory immigration detention policy for all unlawful non-citizens was introduced in 1994.

The Coalition Government believes that unlawful non-citizens should be detained for the shortest possible time while their visa is being processed or their removal from Australia is arranged.

Our policies have ensured that, on average, protection visa applications made by unauthorised arrivals in detention are decided in 40 days. Where applications are straightforward, decisions are made in as little as two to three weeks after lodgement.

Genuine refugees are immediately released from immigration detention upon the completion of their health and security checks.

Detainees who remain in detention for longer periods are usually exercising their option to pursue appeal of a negative decision through the judicial system.

A re-elected Coalition Government will maintain mandatory immigration detention for all unlawful non-citizens.

- **Community Housing for Women and Children in Detention**

In 2001, the Coalition Government introduced new community setting housing for women and children in detention. Known as Residential Housing Projects (RHPs), this accommodation marked an important improvement on the system put in place by the former Labor government – a system which offered no specialist accommodation for women and children. In RHPs, families manage the day-to-day running of their households, including cooking and cleaning. The women and children enjoy regular opportunities to participate in off-site excursions and other activities and school age children attend local community schools.

(v)

Judicial Review

Migration matters made up 82 per cent of all matters filed in the High Court in 2002-03, which was double the figure of the previous year. In the same period, two thirds of all appeals in the Federal Court were migration appeals, compared with just a third in 1999-2000 and eight per cent in 1995-96. The number of migration applications filed in the Federal Magistrates Court rose from 182 in 2001-02 to 1,397 in 2002-03.

The Coalition Government is determined to prevent the continuing high volume of unmeritorious claims and has introduced legislation into Parliament to reduce the capacity of unlawful arrivals to access extensive judicial appeal processes.

Labor has blocked the passage of this legislation and similar legislation for more than five years.

The Coalition Government recently introduced further reforms to decrease delays in migration litigation while giving applicants an opportunity to challenge migration decisions. These reforms will ensure that migration cases are dealt with quickly and fairly and improve access to justice for all cases with merit.

Applications for judicial review of migration decisions will be able to be made directly to the Federal Magistrates Court to facilitate quicker handling of these types of decisions. The Coalition Government has committed substantial additional resources to the Court and recently appointed eight additional magistrates.

Judicial review will be streamlined by providing identical grounds of review regardless of whether the application is filed in the High Court or the Federal Magistrates Court. This will ensure that courts can quickly stop applicants seeking multiple rounds of review. It will also ensure that court resources are not wasted and that the courts handle

legitimate cases more quickly. The High Court will be able to remit migration cases directly to the Federal Magistrates Court. These reforms were put on hold while the relevant legislation was referred to a Senate Committee by Labor and the minor parties.

A re-elected Coalition Government will legislate to make it clear that courts have the power to make personal costs orders against lawyers filing unmeritorious cases.

(vi) Temporary Protection Visas

A re-elected Coalition Government will maintain the policy of three-year Temporary Protection Visas (TPV) for asylum seekers who have arrived unlawfully. This differentiates people being granted protection after unlawful arrival from people in refugee camps and other difficult circumstances identified by international refugee system as being in the greatest need of resettlement.

This policy supports the international cooperative effort aimed at solving the resettlement problems of genuine refugees.

In recognition of the contribution that many TPV holders have made to Australian society, particularly in regional areas, the Coalition Government recently changed regulations to allow current and former TPV holders to apply for mainstream visas. In particular, there is the flexibility to ensure the recognition of skills gained on the job by lesser skilled workers seeking employer-sponsored visas in regional areas.

At the same time, a new Return Pending Visa is being provided to people who no longer need protection and do not qualify for a mainstream visa. This allows them flexibility in making arrangements to return to their homes.

In contrast to the purpose and flexibility of Coalition policy, Labor's TPV proposal represents a serious watering down of existing arrangements.

(vii) Compliance

A re-elected Coalition Government will maintain its strong onshore and offshore compliance program to ensure that unlawful non-citizens working and living in the Australian community are swiftly returned to their homeland.

In 2002-03, nearly 14,000 people were located and removed from Australia for breaching their visa conditions.

Groundbreaking biometrics legislation, put in place by the Coalition Government in February 2004, will tackle cheats who seek to beat the system.

We are sending a powerful message to the migration industry that blatant misuse of the Migration Act will not be tolerated. The new Migration Agents' Integrity Measures will enable the Government to pursue vexatious migration agents.

(viii) *The Vital Role of the Australian Defence Force*

Along with its heightened counter terrorism responsibilities, the Australian Defence Force has been tasked with deterring illegal boat arrivals, as part of the Coalition Government's whole-of-government response to people smuggling.

Only a re-elected Coalition Government can guarantee that this strategic presence in Australia's northern maritime approaches will be maintained, thereby ensuring an ongoing and powerful deterrent to people smugglers.

Since September 2001 an Australian Defence Force Task Force, comprising a Navy frigate, patrol boats and P3 Orion patrol aircraft, has provided key surveillance and enforcement capabilities to other government agencies such as Customs Coastwatch and Immigration.

This decisive action has dramatically reduced attempts by people smugglers to enter Australian territory illegally. This success demonstrates the value of using existing ADF resources in partnership with other government departments to maintain the physical integrity of our borders and Australia's national sovereignty.

A re-elected Coalition Government will buy two additional Armidale Class Patrol Boats to enable the Royal Australian Navy to provide dedicated surveillance and monitoring of the North West Shelf. The patrol boats will provide an enhanced quick reaction capability to respond to potential threats, including terrorist threats to critical infrastructure, and will add to the Navy's overall border protection capabilities.

People smugglers have in the past targeted Australia's maritime approaches to the North West, so the enhanced ADF presence in this region will act as a further deterrent to any resumption of the trade.

The Department of Defence is currently acquiring 12 Armidale Class Patrol Boats, from Defence Maritime Services and its subcontractor, Austal Limited.

A re-elected Coalition Government will enter into negotiations with these companies for the purchase of the two additional patrol boats.

Assuming these negotiations are concluded on an acceptable basis, the vessels will be constructed at the shipyard of Austal Limited in Henderson, Western Australia.

The patrol boats will be permanently based at Dampier or Port Hedland to ensure they are located near the North West Shelf.

PART 2 STATE-OF-THE-ART TECHNOLOGY TO PROTECT OUR BORDERS

The Coalition Government's Customs Coastwatch, in conjunction with Defence, provides comprehensive 24 hour a day, seven days a week surveillance of Australia's border. In 2003-04 Coastwatch aircraft flew more than 143,000,000 square nautical miles of surveillance coverage. This represents an increase of 53 million square nautical miles in four years.

Since the last election, the Coalition Government has expanded Coastwatch's surveillance flights by a further 1,600 hours to monitor the northern approach routes to Australia. It is estimated that Coastwatch will fly 21,145 hours in 2004-05. In addition, the Government has committed a further \$72.4 million to double Customs' National Marine Unit's surveillance and response capability – to 2,400 seadays.

A re-elected Coalition Government will keep these proven arrangements in place, while ensuring that the Australian Customs Service and Coastwatch have access to the resources and the state-of-the-art technology they need.

(i) *Biometrics*

SmartGate is a state-of-the-art automated border processing system that compares the facial features of incoming plane passengers with a stored image to rapidly and accurately confirm their identity.

SmartGate uses Australian-developed, world-leading biometric technology to drastically cut the time taken to process plane passengers and guard against the fraudulent use of passports.

Reducing passenger processing time benefits passengers, airports and airlines by ensuring shorter queues at the primary passenger line – an important consideration as airlines incorporate larger capacity aircraft into their fleets and passenger numbers increase over the next 10 years.

SmartGate has already been trialled at Sydney Airport to process participating Qantas aircrew, with a 98 per cent successful recognition rate and strong favourable acceptance by users.

The Coalition Government delivered \$3.1 million in the 2004-05 Budget to extend the SmartGate trial to a second international airport to further test the system's reliability.

(ii) *Enhanced Maritime Security*

The Australian Customs Service risk-assesses 100 per cent of ships arriving in Australia and boards most vessels to conduct face-to-passport checks on ship's crew.

The Coalition Government announced in its recent \$102 million maritime security package additional funding to ensure that Customs continues to board approximately 80 per cent of vessels arriving in Australia. This compares with a first port boarding inspection rate of just 40 per cent four years ago.

Since 2001, the Coalition Government has opened new sea container examination facilities, incorporating world leading x-ray technology, at Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane and Fremantle ports. These have significantly enhanced Customs' ability to examine sea containers of interest after a comprehensive risk assessment.

Because of this commitment to sea cargo security, containers are now swiftly and thoroughly examined and there have been significant seizures of drugs, other contraband and undeclared goods.

Based on the success of these facilities, the Coalition Government recently announced a significant increase in the inspection rate of containers.

The Brisbane facility will be upgraded to two shifts per day and all facilities will work one shift on Saturdays. This will ensure the inspection of more than 100,000 containers per annum, or some seven per cent of arriving containers – one of the highest inspection rates in the world. The Government has already committed an extra \$48.7 million over four years to this initiative.

As a further commitment to ensuring the security of Australia's border, Customs has selected a site for Australia's fifth container examination facility in Adelaide. The Government has committed around \$6 million to construct this facility, expected to be fully operational in early 2005.

In 1996-97 the Coalition Government provided Customs with funding to establish a nationwide, networked closed circuit television (CCTV) system to monitor Australia's waterfront. This network, covering 32 of the 63 designated international seaports, enables 24-hour surveillance of 88 separate wharves from 23 different Customs locations.

The National Waterfront CCTV Network provides state-of-the-art surveillance of wharves and supports Customs' efforts to protect Australia's border against drugs, disease and other threats to our safety and security.

To further enhance port security, the Coalition Government recently announced it would expand the existing CCTV network to a further 31 ports, ensuring that all 63 proclaimed ports are monitored.

(iii) *Unmanned Aerial Vehicles*

As part of its recent Defence Capability Plan, the Coalition Government announced it would invest up to \$1 billion in a squadron of state-of-the-art unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs). Capable of high altitude, long endurance operations, these pilotless aircraft can monitor vast areas of ocean. They will play a key role in our maritime surveillance effort, ensuring unprecedented coverage of Australia's maritime approaches. Local scientists and industry are also working on advanced sensors capable of being integrated within such platforms, thereby maximising UAVs' maritime surveillance potential.

Only a re-elected Coalition Government can guarantee the timely and efficient deployment of this state-of-the-art technology – the latest weapon in Australia's fight against people smugglers, terrorists and transnational criminals.

Defence and Coastwatch will later this year begin the operational evaluation of a High Frequency Surface Wave Radar (HFSWR) system located in the Torres Strait. The evaluation will determine the operational benefits of HFSWR to Customs and Defence, particularly its potential to improve the effectiveness of other sensors and platforms.

To support the evaluation of this technology, Coastwatch is seeking to trial a small, long endurance UAV. This vehicle would identify, verify and validate target data derived from the HFSWR system.

The simple nature of the small UAVs means they are portable, readily deployable and only require limited infrastructure to support operations. These platforms have been launched from beaches and require no runway infrastructure. This simple, innovative approach also

significantly reduces pre-mission management and programming, ensuring a rapid customer response.

The rapid response, low cost and versatility of the small UAVs makes this an ideal platform for fixed area operations, such as the identification of targets detected by HFSWR.

The use of a long endurance UAV will provide the opportunity to remain in the operating footprint of the HFSWR for significant periods of time, some 20 hours or more, far exceeding the capability of conventional surveillance assets and providing greater opportunities for investigating detected targets.

The UAV will also ensure that current surveillance assets are not diverted from surveillance tasks, and will provide a cost-effective and efficient method of correlating detected target data.

A re-elected Coalition Government will ensure that Coastwatch is funded to trial this UAV, in support of the HFSWR, at a cost of \$600,000.

(iv) *A Biological and Chemical Agent Screening Capability*

The world has changed since 11 September 2001, with countries focusing on the lethal threat posed by biological, chemical and radiation agents. By widening the range of equipment available to Customs, Australia will be better placed to resist these emerging threats.

At a cost of \$13.9 million over four years, Customs will be provided with:

- Raman Spectrometers for the rapid, non-destructive identification of solid and liquid chemical substances;
- Gas Chromatograph-Mass Spectrometers for the detection and identification of toxic chemical gases and vapours, as well as explosives and drugs;
- Stationary and portable Ion Mobility Spectrometers for the rapid detection of toxic chemical gases and vapours, explosives and drugs; and
- Immunoassay Trace Detectors for medium speed, accurate detection of drugs and explosives.

(v) *New Mail Screening Technology*

While 100 per cent of incoming international mail is already screened, this process will be made more efficient and effective under a re-elected Coalition Government through the introduction of state-of-the-art technology at our international mail centres.

At a cost of \$9.2 million over four years, this technology will include:

- A Large X-Ray (1 metre x 1.2 metre) at the Qantas Mail Handling Unit for the mass screening of mail items at Sydney Airport;
- A new generation high-speed, multi-energy x-ray for the mass examination of mail articles; and
- New metal detection technology at selected Australia Post facilities.

(vi) *Expanding the Detector Dog Program*

A re-elected Coalition Government will invest an additional \$6.9 million in the Australian Customs Service detector dog breeding and training program, ensuring it remains the best in the world.

Additional funding of \$5.98 million over four years will enable the training of a further 10 detector dog teams (DDTs), taking the number of teams to fifty. While DDTs have primarily been deployed to interdict drugs, training of firearms and explosive detector dogs (FEDDs) commenced in June 2003. Since September 2003, six FEDD teams have been deployed, equipping Customs with a highly mobile detection capability. Strategically deployed around Australia, the FEDDs work mainly in the maritime and freight environments and have already assisted in the location of illegal firearms.

Additional funding of \$1 million will enhance Customs detector dog breeding and training capability. In particular, it will facilitate the development of a hazardous chemical detection capability, strengthening Customs' counter terrorism capacity and ensuring the agency's international standing in this emerging field.

PART 3 SECURING OUR REGION

(i) *Fighting Transnational Crime*

The Coalition Government recognises shared intelligence and cooperation are the key in the fight against transnational crime. Customs currently has staff based at four overseas posts – in Washington DC, Brussels, Tokyo and Bangkok. These officers liaise with local Customs services and facilitate the exchange of intelligence.

A re-elected Coalition Government will invest \$4.8 million over four years to establish an Australian Customs Service office in Beijing.

The office will have a strong operational focus, networking with China's Customs service, other overseas law enforcement agencies and Australian law enforcement officials, including the Australian Federal Police, posted overseas. The office will assist with the development of intelligence, support transborder operations and promote improved operational capacity.

While helping combat such transnational criminal activity as drug trafficking and people smuggling, the office will also help manage the Customs components of Australia's rapidly growing trade relationship with China. The post will work to ensure a greater understanding of Australia's anti-dumping policies, and will facilitate the conduct of anti-dumping investigations in China.

At a cost of \$3.6 million over four years, Customs will also establish a post in Jakarta, principally to address border security issues including counter terrorism and illegal people movements.

The Jakarta office will address those risks originating in, or passing through, Indonesia. These risks may include possible terrorist activity, narcotics and people smuggling.

The office will further develop relationships with Indonesian Customs and other law enforcement authorities, and will work closely with other Australian officials based in Indonesia, including the regional Joint Cooperative Law Enforcement Centre.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE GOVERNMENT'S ACHIEVEMENTS

The Coalition Government's tough stance on people smuggling stems from the core belief that Australia has the right to decide who comes to this country and the circumstances in which they come.

Deterrence has been achieved through excision, boat returns, offshore processing and mandatory detention.

By ensuring Customs Coastwatch has the resources it needs, and can draw upon the further resources of Customs' National Marine Unit and the Australian Defence Force, the Coalition Government has effectively put these people smuggling syndicates out of business.

This has been achieved despite the obstructionism of the Labor Party – which has voted against important legislation and proposing to water down the Coalition Government's mandatory detention policy.

Despite Labor's obstructionism, the Coalition Government's policy is working. Since the 2001 election, there has been a marked reduction in the number of unauthorised arrivals and visa over-stayers in the Australian community.

In 2000-01, 54 boats brought a total of 4,137 people to Australia. As a result of the Coalition's initiatives, unauthorised arrivals by boat virtually ceased by the latter half of 2001-02.

Since September 2001 an ADF Task Force comprising a Navy frigate, patrol boats and P3 Orion patrol aircraft has provided key surveillance and enforcement capabilities to other government agencies such as Customs Coastwatch and Immigration.

This decisive action has dramatically reduced the number of attempts by people smugglers to enter Australian territory illegally. This success demonstrates the value of using existing ADF resources in partnership with other government departments to maintain the physical integrity of our borders and Australia's national sovereignty.

While Labor sends mixed messages to people smugglers, the Coalition Government maintains its principled and uncompromising opposition to a practice which endangers the lives of vulnerable people and violates our national sovereignty.

LABOR'S ALTERNATIVE

Labor's policy sends an unmistakable message that illegal arrivals who pay people smugglers will be given preference over those genuine refugees who observe the processes put in place by the Australian Government.

Labor has made it clear that it would bring all unauthorised boat arrivals onshore for processing of their asylum claims.

Labor would weaken mandatory detention by releasing unauthorised arrivals before their asylum claims have been finalised. This would provide the greatest possible incentive for people smugglers to resume business.

Labor would allow failed asylum seekers unfettered access to the Australian legal system at taxpayer expense.

Labor would reverse the Temporary Protection Visa regime and grant permanent visas to unauthorised arrivals after two years. This would effectively destroy the TPV system which they originally supported in 1999, thereby providing people smugglers with an obvious incentive to resume their trade.

Labor would allow unauthorised arrivals who are granted TPVs to sponsor their family members.

The Labor Party showed weak leadership when it refused the passage of legislation and regulations that would put beyond doubt the sovereignty of Australia to determine who can and who cannot enter Australia.

Labor has consistently opposed our attempts to excise the northern islands near Indonesia.

And Labor would abandon the "Pacific Solution".

(i) Labor's Obstructionism

In the past eight years, Labor has:

- obstructed passage of legislation that would limit appeals by failed asylum seekers to the courts;
- obstructed the Border Control Bill that would have put beyond doubt the sovereignty of Australia to determine who can and who cannot enter Australia;
- disallowed Regulations to excise islands from our Migration Zone;
- obstructed passage of legislation that would limit the ability of unlawful non-citizens to join class actions to delay their removal from Australia;
- watered down measures designed to address non-bona fide applicants in the family stream;
- rejected measures to give the Australian Government the ability to determine the number of migrants entering in the spouse category;
- disallowed a Regulation that would require the majority of an intending migrant's children to be in Australia before they can be sponsored as a parent under balance of family;
- disallowed a Regulation that would meet the Coalition election commitment to seek full cost recovery of English language tuition charges;
- obstructed passage of legislation to allow an extra 4,000 parents who choose to meet some of their own health and welfare costs, to enter Australia; and
- not even bothered to release an Immigration Policy during the 2001 election.

(ii) Labor's Coastguard – a “Meet and Greet” Service

Labor maintains a “meet and greet” policy with unauthorised arrivals. Rather than deterring unauthorised arrivals, Labor's Coastguard would be a very expensive water taxi service. It will also divert critical resources away from the Royal Australian Navy and squander millions of Defence dollars to establish a new bureaucracy to administer a task that is already being done efficiently and cost effectively.

Labor's latest Coastguard proposal, the fifth since October 2001, contrasts sharply with the Coalition's determination to deter illegal arrivals and to offer unstinting support to the men and women of Customs and Defence who are doing a great job as "cops on the beat" at our borders.

- Kim Beazley released Labor's first Coastguard policy in October 2001 (costed at \$895 million but unfunded).
- Simon Crean released Labor's second Coastguard policy in November 2002 (costed at \$612 million but unfunded).
- Mark Latham released yet another version in March 2004 (uncosted and unfunded).
- In June 2004, Labor tried for a fourth time (costing estimated at \$500 million but unfunded).
- In September 2004, Mark Latham tried for a fifth time, remarkably promising the same service for \$200 million less.

Shortly after Mr McClelland returned from a trip to the United States last March, Mark Latham announced Labor's third Coastguard proposal, again uncosted and unfunded, including snipers suspended from helicopters. Embarrassingly for Labor, the inappropriateness, and unsustainable cost, of these proposals forced them to abandon this version of their policy.

Labor now proposes that their Coastguard be a branch of the Australian Federal Police, claiming this would somehow give it greater authority. Labor seems not to know the law. Customs and Defence officers already have the power of arrest and prosecution. They can seize goods and vessels and regularly do both.

Labor must now be honest with the Australian people and answer the following questions:

- Why should Coastguard be an operating division of the Australian Federal Police, when border protection duties are already carried out in a highly professional and competent manner by Customs and Defence?
- How exactly would this proposal improve existing arrangements?
- Labor wants to buy three more boats of the same size as the Australian Defence Force's new patrol boats, and five more boats of the same size as the existing Customs vessels. Why then do they propose to set up an entirely new bureaucracy to manage them?

- Isn't Labor's latest Coastguard proposal just another attempt to force those Australians working in maritime surveillance roles into the Maritime Union of Australia?

Labor's plan would dismantle Coastwatch, a system that is working well, and create a new and expensive bureaucracy that would inevitably divert resources away from operations.

Labor's latest backflip would endanger the significantly enhanced border protection measures which the Coalition Government has put in place.

COSTINGS SUMMARY

Stronger Border Protection					
Policy Measure	2004-05 \$m	2005-06 \$m	2006-07 \$m	2007-08 \$m	Total \$m
Trial of Unmanned Aerial Vehicle	0.6	-	-	-	0.6
Biological and Chemical Agent Screening Capability	4.4	5.0	2.8	1.7	13.9
New Mail Screening Technology	7.3	0.4	0.7	0.8	9.2
Expanding the Detector Dog Program	3.3	1.2	1.2	1.2	6.9
Customs Post in Beijing	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	4.8
Customs Post in Jakarta	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	3.6
TOTAL	17.7	8.7	6.8	5.8	39.0