

**SPECIAL EDITION: FEDERAL ELECTION 2013**

Wading through the various policies and promises of the major parties during a Federal Election Campaign can be difficult and time consuming – so the ALRTA Secretariat has done it for you.

Over the course of the Election Campaign we have met with many Federal Politicians and their advisors. We have launched our own strategy for 'Getting Regional Australia Back on the Road', we have provided resources to assist you in making representations locally and we have sought written responses to our proposals from each of the major parties.

In preparing our policy summary we have referenced speeches, media releases, policy announcements, responses to industry correspondence, as well as notes from our meetings. We have focused only on policies that relate to heavy vehicles, infrastructure, agriculture, small business and regional economies.

We have not 'judged' the policies - it's your vote and we are not going to tell you how to use it.

The ALRTA wishes all standing candidates the very best of luck on Saturday, 7 September 2013.

Liz Schmidt, ALRTA President

POLICY SUMMARY: FEDERAL ELECTION 2013

Labor	Coalition
Carbon Tax	
Initially 1.6 cents per litre from 1 July 2014, forecast to rise to 5.1 cents by July 2016.	No carbon tax – replaced by a 'Direct Action Plan'.
Industrial Relations	
Road Safety Remuneration Tribunal.	Road Safety Remuneration Tribunal to be reviewed. \$6,000 each for long-term unemployed to move to regional areas for work. Statement to protect independent contractor rights.
National Heavy Vehicle Laws	
National Heavy Vehicle Laws and Regulator.	National Heavy Vehicle Laws and Regulator.
Heavy Vehicle Charging	
Review and consultation processes to be continued. Recognition of road-train overcharging.	Review and consultation processes to be continued. Recognition of road-train overcharging.
Labor	Coalition
Animal Welfare	

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<p>Exporter Supply Chain Assurance System</p> <p><i>(regulates the treatment of livestock and requires exporters to take responsibility for the welfare of animals throughout their supply chain).</i></p>	<p>Commitment to increased policy stability and certainty for live exports trade.</p>
Regional Roads and Rail	
<p>Recent completion of Hume duplication.</p> <p>\$5.7b for Bruce Highway.</p> <p>Duplication of 165.5km of Pacific Highway 2013-14.</p> <p>High productivity vehicle trials.</p>	<p>\$6.7b for Bruce Highway.</p> <p>\$5.6b for Pacific Highway duplication.</p> <p>\$700m for Second Toowoomba Range Crossing.</p> <p>\$615m for Perth to Darwin Highway.</p> <p>\$508 for Warrego Highway.</p> <p>\$400m for Midland Highway.</p> <p>\$300m for proposed Melb-Bris inland rail.</p> <p>\$300m Bridges Renewal Program – recognition of need to improve access for trucks.</p> <p>15 year planning horizon and an improved role for Infrastructure Australia.</p>
Road Safety	
<p>Continuation of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roads to Recovery Programme (\$350m); Black Spots Programme (\$60m); and Heavy Vehicle Safety and Productivity Program - <i>continuation of additional funding for livestock infrastructure not ruled out.</i> 	<p>Continuation of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roads to Recovery Programme; Black Spots Programme; and Heavy Vehicle Safety and Productivity Program – <i>continuation of additional funding for livestock infrastructure ruled out.</i>
Small Business	
<p>Upfront tax deduction up to \$10,000 for new equipment or assets.</p> <p>Businesses with a turnover of less than \$20m allowed to lodge BAS annually from 1 July 2014.</p> <p>Extending access to the ‘free’ superannuation clearing house to all businesses with less than 100 employees (i.e. superannuation can be paid to one place in one transaction).</p> <p>Businesses with less than 20 employees can have Paid Parental Leave paid directly to employees.</p> <p>Increased voice of small business in decision making:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A new Small Business Adviser; A new Small Business Consultative Council; \$400,000 funding to the Council of Small Business Organisations of Australia; Permanent funding of a Small Business Commissioner. 	<p>1.5 % cut in the company tax rate from 1 July 2015.</p> <p>To be scrapped: Instant asset write-off, loss carry back and \$5k instant tax write-off for motor vehicles.</p> <p>A superannuation clearing house via the ATO.</p> <p>An ‘opt in’ option to have parental leave paid directly to employees.</p> <p>A ‘one-stop’ environmental approval process.</p> <p>Review Competition and Consumer Act to ensure small business treated more fairly.</p> <p>Will extend unfair contract protection to small businesses (currently available to consumers only).</p> <p>Will require Parliament to spend 2 days per year removing regulations affecting small business.</p>
Labor	Coalition
Regional Economies	

Continuation of Regional Development Australia (Strategic input into regional development).	\$200m annual commitment to National Stronger Regions Fund – targeting regions with low socio-economic development.
Continuing rollout of Regional Development Australia Fund (\$350m invested in first two rounds).	\$106m for rural and regional health initiatives.
Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program (\$1.1b invested to date).	\$100m Mobile Phone Black Spots Program.
Community Infrastructure Grants (\$200m).	Proposed Tertiary Access Allowance for regional students who move to attend university.
25 Regional Cancer Centres to be established.	Will explore opportunities to develop Northern Australia.
\$475m for new and upgraded health facilities in rural, regional and remote Australia.	Commitment to slower, but more affordable NBN, delivered sooner.
\$100m for Jobs and Growth Plan for Tasmania.	
Creation of ‘Northern Special Economic Zone’ with tax incentives, expansion of Ord and 20 year plan.	
Build a National Broadband Network.	
Agriculture	
National Food Plan which aims to increase the value of food-related exports by 45% by 2025.	Agricultural exports recognised as one of the 5 pillars of the economy.
\$100m Murray-Darling Basin Regional Economic Diversification Programme.	\$147m package to support agriculture, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$100m for research and development; • \$30m to improve export performance; • \$15m rebates for small exporters; • \$8m for better pest and disease control; • \$2m for school curriculum; • \$2.2m to fund native title respondents.
\$99.4m in new farm household support payments.	Commence detailed planning for new dams.
	Reduce trigger for ‘national interest test’ from \$244m to \$15m for proposed foreign agribusiness ownership.

For a full overview of the policies of the major parties you can visit:

Labor: <http://www.alp.org.au/>

Coalition: <http://campaign.lnp.org.au/>

The **ALRTA’s strategy** and **ALP response** is at:

www.alrta.org.au

The party responses and **ATA report card** is at:

<http://www.truck.net.au/public/2013-election-your-report-card-major-parties>

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