



MEDIA RELEASE

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AUSTRALIAN PROGRESSIVES DEMAND IMMEDIATE RECALL OF PARLIAMENT

The Australian Progressives demand the Prime Minister Scott Morrison immediately recall both houses of the Australian Parliament to face a no confidence vote in the ability of he and his government to effectively lead the nation and fulfil their responsibilities to the Australian people.

Scott Morrison, since his election as Prime Minister in August 2018, has presided over a litany of scandals and abrogation of responsibilities to the Australian people which must be addressed by parliament. Prime Minister Morrison demonstrated his lack of leadership ability and situational awareness with recent appalling actions related to a national disaster, alongside repeated cases of conflict of interest and allegations of corrupt conduct by his ministers and MPs. This illustrates they cannot be trusted to effectively govern our nation any longer and we cannot continue to be led by half-formed ideas and ideological zealotry disconnected from the reality of what this nation faces as its future.

Specifically, the Australian Progressives highlight the following list of failures as the rationale and evidence supporting this call for a vote of no confidence:

- Failing to acknowledge, or take any meaningful action in addressing climate change, causing enormous international embarrassment and condemnation, and risking future trade and diplomatic relationships.
- The Prime Minister himself placing Australians in danger by repeatedly ignoring warnings by fire experts about the impending risks of the 2019/2020 fire season.
- The Prime Minister's stubborn refusal to take action to bolster fire services through extra funding and resources in the lead up to this most recent bushfire season.
- The Prime Minister's complete lack of acknowledgement of the severity of the recent bushfire season by taking leave to Hawaii and allowing other key ministers to take leave during a crisis.
- Overseeing a \$6.4 billion underspend on the NDIS preventing critical support being delivered to Australia's most vulnerable.
- An ongoing Robodebt fiasco causing very real harm to Australians reliant on government support, yet legally proven to be deeply flawed.
- Stubborn refusal to listen to a chorus of voices and evidence of positive impacts from across the country to lift the rate of Newstart and improve the lives of Australia's poorest.
- Failing to adequately support Australia's aging and aged population by refusing to address significant issues in the aged care sector, failing to provide appropriate and necessary provisions for in home care and aged care packages for the most needy.
- Amidst a building bushfire crisis, continuing to push a religious discrimination bill described by the Law Council of Australia as "a deeply flawed piece of legislation" which puts freedom of religious expression ahead of other human rights.
- The government's ongoing attack on whistle-blower protections and the rights of the media and independent journalism.
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- Repeatedly voting against a Banking Royal Commission which ultimately showed systemic corruption and abrogation of responsibility by government regulators.
- Failing to support the formation of a Federal Independent Commission against Corruption for Federal and state ministers and government employees.
- A refusal to stand down Angus Taylor despite the unresolved 'Grassgate', water buyback, and digital forgery scandals, now being investigated by the Australian Federal Police.
- Allowing the pre-selection of Gladys Liu despite ASIO warnings of her connections to the Chinese Communist Party to Prime Minister Turnbull in 2018.
- Failing to acknowledge the behaviour of both Gladys Liu and Josh Frydenberg in their use of deceptive election campaign signage in the May 2019 federal election.
- The Prime Minister's appalling lack of judgement in creating a Liberal Party advert to promote his late response to the bushfire crisis, while breaking bipartisan convention to not politicise the Australian Defence Force.
- Continued deflections of responsibility by blaming states and state governments for his inaction.
- Attempts to quell free speech by cracking down and attacking Australians exercising their free and democratic rights to protest.

Evidenced by the above and in the best interest of the country, we acknowledge it is time to start to honour the democratic process by which we live. Our Prime Minister needs to lead by example – instead he has chosen pic opps and marketing opportunities. The role of our leadership is to keep our representatives honest and accountable. Scott Morrison and his government have failed in their duty to Australians.

This is not a partisan position and the Australian Progressives are made up of members from across the political spectrum. Nor is it a tribal or factional divide between left and right – it is about moving forward rather than backward. To make Australia the best we can be requires a visionary and ethical leader, not someone who encourages secrecy. Scott Morrison has shown us his government is incapable of representing the will of Australians, instead pandering to billionaire mining magnates, religious zealots and media moguls. To serve the public is an honour and a privilege and high office should only be held by those who wish to serve, rather than be served.

The Australian Progressives is a party based on key values of ethics, empathy, equality, evidence, engagement and empowerment. These values are the foundations a successful democracy and we have seen these demonstrated in times of crisis by progressive world leaders. For Australia to regain our reputation on the global stage, we need a government willing to act in the best interest of all Australians. This is why we demand a vote of no confidence in this government.

The Australian Progressives policy positions can be found at <https://www.progressives.org.au/platform>

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About Australian Progressives:

We believe in the advancement of an empathetic society - one in which all citizens of Australia can reach their full potential and find fulfilment in their lives within a thriving democracy. We will be a government with the guts to advance society through laws, services and infrastructure, for the benefit of all people. We believe government and communities should work together to develop creative and passionate individuals who can improve the world around them, embracing education, technology, science, culture and global leadership.

Senior members of the Australian Progressives National Executive are available for comment

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