Federal budget 2019: GetUp to target Josh Frydenberg’s seat at election – politics live

LIVE Updated 4m ago Josh Frydenberg as treasurer prepares pre-election budget focused on infrastructure spending and tax cuts. Meanwhile, Liberals pick Fiona Martin to replace Craig Laundy in Reid. All the day’s events, live

- Budget 2019 to soften superannuation rules for over 65s
Jim Chalmers had a chat this morning about whether Labor would support the Coalition’s increase to the low and middle-income-earners tax rebate from $530 to just over $1,000, which effectively matches what Labor had already put in place:

_We will always do the right and responsible thing by people on low and middle incomes in the Labor party. We’ve had a policy on the table for almost a year now to give substantial relief via bigger, fairer tax cuts for people on low and middle incomes. Of course they are the people who should be prioritised when there is tax relief to go around. We’ve been saying that for some time._

_The Liberal party’s not just playing catch-up with Labor on tax cuts for people on low and middle incomes, they’re copying Labor’s policy. Australians will see through it. Australians know that the Liberal and National parties couldn’t give a toss about people on low and middle incomes. They know this is about Scott Morrison’s political interests and not about the interests of people of modest means._

Speaking of Fraser Anning:

For those wondering about the Fraser Anning censure motion, as we speculated a little earlier, it doesn’t look like the Senate will have time to get to it.

The condolence motion for Christchurch is (rightly) taking priority. And then Mathias Cormann, as the finance minister, will have to head into the budget lock-up, which doesn’t leave a lot of time.

_tl;dr – Anning likely won’t be censured until tomorrow._

Tim Costello, the executive director of Micah Australia, has one request ahead of this budget – for the Coalition to reinstate the bipartisan commitment to aid spending:

_When the first budget surplus in over a decade is delivered tonight, sadly, I don’t think it will be good news for the poor._

_Even now with a surplus at hand and as the revenue is rolling in, we are left wondering why we are not moving to a more generous Australian aid commitment._

_When will our government believe we have ‘enough’ so we can start being generous again?_
If there is an additional cut in tonight’s budget, we’d have to be asking even more serious questions about the absolute rot in our aid budget and the lack of character and moral leadership shown by this current government.

2h ago 09:51

Parliament is also sitting today.

The Senate will be a bit busy this morning - three new senators need to be sworn in.

Jacinta Collins finished up for Labor in February. Raff Ciccone will replace her.

David Bushby has also finished up for the Tasmanian Liberals. His sister, Wendy Askew, will be sworn in, in his place.

And David Leyonhjelm, who left for a shot in the New South Wales upper house (still to be decided) will be replaced by his former chief of staff, Duncan Spender.

Both Ciccone and Askew are likely to be back when the new Senate is determined after 30 June.

But Spender looks like making a record for shortest sitting senator ever, given there are just two sitting days left in the Senate.

All will be paid until the term officially ends in June though. Which is just under $60,000 for two (sitting days) work - but of course they will all be very busy with their state constituencies, I’m sure.

2h ago 09:45

I guess if you’re going to choose from the AC/DC back catalogue, Back in Black works better than Dirty Deeds Done Dirt Cheap.

2h ago 09:41

The social team seem quite proud of this.

Maybe stop trying to make fetch happen?

2h ago 09:40

Bill Shorten is holding his pre-budget press conference:

We understand tonight’s budget is much more a political leaflet than it is an economic plan for the future but one thing which the government could do is reverse the $14bn cuts to public education. After all, what could be more important than giving our kids the best possible education? I believe in better schools not bigger tax loopholes. I believe in better schools, not short-term political budget statements like we will see tonight.

On the doubling of tax rebates to $1,000, which will be one of the cornerstones of the budget paper tonight:
Thank you for reminding everyone that last year the government said they could only find $500 for a working person on perhaps $90,000 a year but because of our economic reforms we said we would increase the refund available to working Australians to $928. The government’s now realised that they have a problem, that Labor has bigger, better, fairer tax cuts for nearly 10 million working people. We will study what they offer tonight.

And on the government’s attacks on Labor’s climate policy:

We need to lift the standard of journalism and not just repeat unsubstantiated facts. Well, they are bringing it in like a piece of coal and brandishing it like some lucky charm.

The fact is that the Liberal party can’t get energy party back. If they are fair dinkum on climate change and energy policy, Malcolm Turnbull would still be prime minister.

The modelling shows a 45% emissions reduction will have the same impact as the 26%, because we will include international credit.

First of all, another proof point, our commitment to investing in renewable energy will see the generation of 70,000 new jobs, good-quality new jobs in a growth industry which we can help export.

Let’s look at Malcolm Turnbull’s work. The government can’t have it both ways. We borrowed their safeguard mechanism to reduce emissions in heavier industrial polluters, we borrowed their mechanism, so if they don’t like what they are doing, they are saying their own mechanism doesn’t work, or to put another way - last year or just before they got rid of poor old Malcolm they were proposing a national energy guarantee which would help power bills come down by about $500.

We have taken up the national energy guarantee, they haven’t. When you look at it, we are using their logic, we are using the best science and evidence, and we are focusing on increasing jobs, and now the government, even the current leaders of the government voted for Mr Turnbull’s plans last year. We have borrowed them and now because we have borrowed the framework all of a sudden they don’t like them.

This budget has a very weird feel about it, it has to be said.

Not just because it is not cold, although that has something to do with it not feeling quite real.

But because it is only the prelude to the main game. The election can be called any time from when the appropriation bill passes parliament. You need about half a day for that. So the budget this time round is just one big election platform. Which is why it may as well be full of unicorns - everyone gets something, but it’s not quite real.

Updated at 9.36am AEDT
Topics

- Australian politics
- Australian politics live with Amy Remeikis
- Scott Morrison
- Bill Shorten
- Australian budget 2019
- Josh Frydenberg
- Coalition
- Labor party