



10 September 2021

The Honourable Anthony Albanese MP  
Leader of the Opposition and Member for Grayndler  
Via email: [A.Albanese.MP@aph.gov.au](mailto:A.Albanese.MP@aph.gov.au)

Dear Mr Albanese,

NSW Council for Civil Liberties strongly supports the commitment in Labor's national platform to review the Human Rights Framework established by previous Labor governments and consider whether it could be enhanced through a statutory charter of human rights or other similar instrument.

Upholding all human rights through an ethical infrastructure that is applied consistently, drawing on a single codified set of human rights, is the best way to create a society that is sustainable, and enjoys the most possible liberties and freedoms. I am writing to impress on you the need to commit to that review in the first hundred days of the next Labor government as a catalyst to reform Australia's ethical infrastructure.

Society will restructure rapidly in the wake of the COVID pandemic and Governments will need to engage more with society as that happens. The post COVID restructure offers Australia the prospect of a stronger, fairer, more innovative and inclusive future, but Government will need the trust of Australians to deliver that and, after years of cynical populism pandering to the greed and fear of sections of the electorate, trust is in short supply.

Trust starts with accountability. Our future economic, social and environmental health will depend on the ethical architecture in place to ensure Governments acts for everyone when spending our money, and to ensure individuals have the chance to hold Government to account for decisions that affect their lives.

A Human Rights Act (HRA) will help manage societal risks as Australia changes and show that Government can be humane to the powerless and accountable to individuals for the consequences of its decisions.

Please do not let this opportunity pass Australia by.

Yours sincerely,

Pauline Wright  
President  
NSW Council for Civil Liberties