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The Palmer United Party

November 2014

The Palmer United Party (PUP) was formed in April 2013. Following the 2013 Federal election, the PUP secured two Senate seats and one seat in the House of Representatives. At the 2014 Western Australian Senate re-election, the PUP picked up a further seat in the Senate.

The PUP has also entered into an alliance with Victorian Senator Ricky Muir of the Australian Motoring Enthusiasts Party (AMEP). In broad terms, the PUP has agreed to support the AMEP agenda. In exchange, the AMEP has agreed to support the PUP's policies in the Senate.

On 24 November 2014 Tasmanian Senator Jacqui Lambie resigned from the PUP to sit as an independent. The Hawker Britton Occasional Paper on Independent Senator Jacqui Lambie is available [here](#).

The Palmer United Party National Policy booklet can be found [here](#).

All Palmer United Party Policy Releases are available [here](#).

The Hawker Britton Occasional Paper on Senate election results is available [here](#).

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The Palmer United Party Platform

The PUP in its National Policy Booklet has outlined five key policies:

1. Further regulation of lobby groups;
2. 25 per cent of wealth generated from regions in Australia to be returned to that region;
3. Repeal and refunding of the Carbon Tax;
4. Government encouragement of the use of mineral resource wealth in Western Australia and Queensland to support downstream manufacturing in New South Wales, South Australia, Tasmania and Victoria; and
5. Onshore processing of asylum seekers at airports.

The full list of policies can be found on the following pages.

The PUP National Platform also outlines the party's views on the operation and role of the Federal government and government services, including:

- General support for federalism and the decentralisation of power, with local decisions being made at the local level (*PUP National Policy Booklet p 6*).
- That the Parliament has an important role as a balance to the Executive, and that the Senate should operate as a House of Review without obstructing the will of the elected Government (*PUP National Policy Booklet p 14*).
- That Constitutional change should take place only after careful consideration and with strong public support as expressed in a referendum (*PUP National Policy Booklet p 14*).
- That the Government should not provide services that can be better delivered by competitive enterprise (*PUP National Policy Booklet p 12*). The PUP also expressed a commitment to minimising the regulatory burden on businesses (*PUP National Policy Booklet p 17*).

2013 Federal election results

The Palmer United Party fielded candidates in all 150 House of Representatives seats at the 2013 Federal election, receiving 5.5 per cent of the national vote.

The PUP secured one seat in the House of Representatives and two Senate seats. Clive Palmer was elected as Member for Fairfax in Queensland, and Jacqui Lambie and Glenn Lazarus were elected to represent Tasmania and Queensland in the Senate from 1 July 2014.

PUP candidate Zhenya ('Dio') Wang was elected Senator for Western Australia at the WA Senate re-election in April 2014. He will also commence his term on 1 July 2014.

Key personnel

Clive Palmer MP, Member for Fairfax

Clive Palmer is the founder of and has been Chairman of Mineralogy since 1985. He has been Chairman of Queensland Nickel since July 2009 and is also a director of China First Coal, China First Iron Ore, Kingsway Oil, Chinampa Exploration and Cosmo Developments.

Glenn Lazarus

Glenn Lazarus was the PUP Queensland Senate leader. Mr Lazarus is a former rugby player, and the only player in the history of the NRL to have won premierships with three different clubs.

Dio Wang

Zhenya ('Dio') Wang was the PUP Western Australian Senate leader and was elected at the 2014 Western Australian re-election. Before entering Parliament, Mr Wang worked as a civil engineer, and

has been employed with Perth-based Australasian Resources Ltd since 2006. He was promoted to the position of Chief Executive Officer in 2010 and later appointed Managing Director in 2012.

Jacqui Lambie (formerly PUP, now independent)

Jacqui Lambie was the PUP Tasmanian Senate leader. Ms Lambie served as a soldier in the Australian Army for over a decade. She has been fundraiser for Rotary and acted as the membership, events and promotions ambassador for Burnie Chamber of Commerce & Industry.

On 24 November 2014 Senator Lambie resigned from the PUP following disagreement over the party's response to the Government's changes to entitlements for ADF personnel.

The Hawker Britton Occasional Paper on Independent Senator Jacqui Lambie is available [here](#).

Key policies

1. Asylum seekers

- Two-pronged approach to asylum seekers: smuggler boats turned around while genuine refugees are allowed to arrive by plane ([media release](#)).
- The PUP advocates onshore processing of asylum seekers, allowing asylum seekers to fly to Australia and be processed at airports where they could have a 'fair hearing' (*PUP Policy Releases* p 5, *PUP National Policy Booklet* p 4).
- The PUP has called on Indonesia to 'enforce maritime laws' ([media release](#)).

2. Budget

The PUP will reduce taxes:

- Supports the abolition of:
 - The carbon tax (*PUP Policy Releases* p 14, *PUP National Policy Booklet* p 3). The repeal would operate from the introduction of the legislation, effectively 'refunding' the tax back to companies and individuals (*PUP National Policy Booklet* p 3)
 - The Minerals Resource Rent Tax (*PUP Policy Releases* p 101)
 - All Fringe Benefit Taxes – with a particular focus on ending FBT on entertainment: business lunches should not be taxed ([media release](#))
- Will reduce:
 - Income tax by 15 percent, amounting to a \$2500 tax cut for the average taxpayer ([media release](#))
 - Taxation on income earned from a second job by 50 per cent (*PUP Policy Releases* p 110; [media release](#))
 - PUP would also allow companies to pay their tax annually instead of quarterly, 'effectively injecting \$70 billion into the economy' ([media release](#))
- Has ruled out any increases to any taxes ([media release](#)), including:

- The GST ([media release](#))
- Tobacco and other excises (*PUP Policy Releases* p 135; [media release](#))

The PUP will not cut spending:

- Against Prime Minister Abbott's planned \$75 billion cuts from the Federal Budget: "Australia needs more investment, not less... We don't want Tony Abbott to be another Campbell Newman and close schools cut frontline health services and sack police" (*PUP Policy Releases* p 23)
- Supports redistribution of GST revenue to WA ([media release](#))

3. Education

- Platform: "ensure the widest possible freedom in choice in education, promoted by diversity of systems and schools... decentralise the control and administration of schooling by empowering local systems and respecting school communities" (*PUP National Policy Booklet* p 18).
 - The PUP supports an increase primary and secondary school funding by \$20 billion (*PUP Policy Releases* p 39).
 - The PUP supports legislation to reduce classroom sizes to a maximum of 30 (*PUP Policy Releases* p 39).
 - Against any funding reduction for independent schools (*PUP Policy Releases* p 29)
- Against any cuts to tertiary sector (including to fund Better Schools Plan) (*PUP Policy Releases* p 28).
 - The PUP supports the abolition of higher education fees funded by company tax cuts ([media release](#)).
 - The PUP is against TAFE privatisation, will review TAFE funding and is committed to a strong and well-resourced public VET delivery system ([media release](#)).

4. Employment

- The PUP planned to tackle youth unemployment by increased tertiary education funding and vocational and technical training in secondary schools ([media release](#)).
- The PUP supports 12 months parental leave and the allocation of \$50,000 to the primary care giver (*PUP Policy Releases* p 105).

5. Environment

- The PUP proposed a target of 25 per cent of vehicles running on ethanol by 2020, which delivers benefits for the agricultural industry (especially in Bundaberg and Mackay in regional Queensland), jobs and the environment ([media release](#)).
- The PUP committed to investigate CSG and impacts on health ([media release](#)).
- The PUP proposed the establishment of a national commission to investigate the Carbon issue and seek submissions from all Australians so that the government is fully informed (*PUP National Policy Booklet* p 3).
- The PUP has supported the maintenance of the Renewable Energy Target ([media release](#)).
- The PUP has supported the abolition of the Carbon Tax ([media release](#)).

6. Health and Disability

- \$80 billion for health and hospitals, including \$4 billion for mental health, \$5 billion for Aboriginal health (*PUP Policy Releases* p 59, [media release](#)). The funding would be broken down between the states and territories as follows:
 - NSW – \$18 billion
 - Vic – \$18 billion
 - Qld – \$10 billion
 - WA – \$9 billion
 - SA – \$8 billion
 - ACT – \$1 billion
 - Tas and NT – not specified
- The PUP are against increases to the Medicare levy ([media release](#))
- An extra \$4 billion for mental health services and \$5 billion for Aboriginal health.
- The NDIS should cover +65 Australians, rather than their only option being existing aged care system ([media release](#)), also argues NDIS shouldn't be funded by increased levies or taxes ([media release](#)).

7. Media

- Increase ABC funding by \$150 million ([media release](#)).
- Increase SBS funding by \$65 million ([media release](#)).

8. Mining

- The PUP believes Australian government needs to encourage the use of the mineral resource wealth of WA & QLD to support downstream manufacturing in NSW, SA, Tas and Vic (*PUP Policy Releases* p 14).
- Advocates for 25 per cent of the wealth generated from regions in Australia to be returned to that region (*PUP National Policy Booklet* p 3).

9. Social security

- Aged pension increases: 20 per cent increase on the present basic rate for the aged pension, from \$733.70 to \$883.70 per fortnight for singles and \$1,106.20 to \$1327.40 for couples ([media release](#)).
- The PUP proposed a \$640m Veterans Affairs Pension Deal ([media release](#)).
- Housing: First \$10,000 of every home loan tax deductible each year ([media release](#)).

10. Other

- Conscience vote on same-sex marriage, abortion and euthanasia ([media release](#)).
- Tougher laws to prevent former ministers and staffers becoming lobbyists ([media release](#)).
- Banning body scanner screening at Australian international airports ([media release](#)).
- Tougher laws on synthetic drugs ([media release](#)).
- North Queensland should become an independent state in Australia ([media release](#))

- Against live export ban (*PUP Policy Releases* p 3).
- Calls for review of electoral system and AEC ([media release](#)).
- Disband the Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority, redirect its funding to grassroots sport (*PUP Policy Releases* p 116).

Further information

- The Palmer United Party National Policy booklet can be found [here](#).
- All Palmer United Party Policy Releases are available [here](#).
- All Palmer United Party Media Releases are available [here](#).
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- The Hawker Britton Occasional Paper on the 2014 WA Senate re-election is available [here](#).