Marie Healy

Individual Submission To The Treasury

The Australian Government

2021-22 Pre-Budget Submission

1. Declarations

I am making this submission as private individual

I am, however, a member of the Canterbury Greens and have been pre-selected to run for the 2021 Local Government Elections.

I have not made any disclosable political donations in the past 12 months or more.

1. My submission is informed by the real and present dangers to our lives, now and in the future, of climate change, the loss of biodiversity, the extinction crisis and increasing social inequity. To act on all of these issues will be expensive, but to not act will cost much more.
2. My submission:

**Agriculture, Water and the Environment**

Make climate change, loss of biodiversity and sustainability central to all spending decisions.

Water security is vital for our dry continent- water licensing should prioritise environmental flows and small-scale farmers. Water licensees should not be available for foreign investors.

Provide incentives for farmers to move away from land-cleating and develop more sustainable farming methods.

Provide incentives for sustainable fishing practices and limit fishing licences to provide no fish zones.

Fund the exit of loggers from native forests and create a national map of cleared areas that can be used for food production.

The federal government should retain over-arching control of environmental protections.

Increase funding for the elimination of feral and invasive species.

Increaser funding for the protection and re-populating of endangered and threatened species.

Heritage assessments should be updated and protections strengthener, especially for ancient aboriginal sites.

**Attorney-General’s, Justice and Human Rights**

Abandon the merger of the circuit and family law courts (which require specialised service provision).

Increase funding of community legal centres and Legal Aid.

Release long-term asylum seekers from detention, and re-direct this funding to a more human system of processing. Fund a trial of communal sponsorship of asylum-seekers (the Biloela family is a case in point)

**Education, Skills and Employment**

Increase public funding of Universities, TAFE and Public Schools and reduce funding to privately-run colleges and schools.

Abandon the payment system to private employment agencies for the unemployed and re-direct to apprenticeship and training systems.

Introduce means-tested free child care.

Do not fund politically -motivated attacks on unions.

**Finance**

Fund a federal ICAC that has powers to prosecute politicians.

Stop privatising public assets.

Ban political donations and switch to publicly -funded election campaigns.

**Health, Aged Care and Sport**

Increase funding for community home care packages and prevent for-profit aged care providers from donating to or lobbying political parties or ministers.

Increase funding of the primary care system.

Ban donations from the Pharmacy Guild and pharmaceutical companies.

**Industry, Science, Energy and Resources**

Make climate change and loss of biodiversity central to spending decisions.

The plan for a gas-led recovery, increased investments in coal-fired power, and carbon capture, should be abandoned in favour of investment in renewables such as solar, wind and hydrogen.

Abandon plans to tax electric vehicles and fund electrification of the federal car fleet and public transport vehicles.

Re-establish a federal climate council led by non-partisan scientists and disband the National COVID-19 Commission.

Introduce a carbon tax and increase royalties paid by miners.

Improve rebates for domestic solar panels and batteries.

**Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications**

Update the NBN now and move away from the old technology currently being rolled out. The CPOVID pandemic has increased the use of and need for fast and effective internet connections.

Increase mobile phone coverage in rural areas. The bushfires had highlighted the need for national mobile cover.Increase incentives to move freight via rail.Invest in public rail networks and increase costs for private toll road operators.

Increase funding to the ABC.

No funding to the Murdoch media.

**Social Services**

Restore funding to community legal centres, Legal Aid, Women’s refuges and homeless shelters.

Mandate all developers provide 10% social and 10% affordable housing in each development worth over $15million.

Increase job-seeker permanently.

**Prime Minister and Cabinet**

Funding and management of Close the Gap should be controlled by Aboriginal Corporations.

Increase funding of the public service and reduce the use of private consultants..

Ban the use of private consultants who have donated to the political party in power,

**Treasury**

Abandon negative gearing for properties.

Ban all donations from developers.

Reject any attempts to penalise institutions who stop investing in fossil fuels.

Align the superannuation benefits for politicians and ordinary workers.

Political pensions should be reviewed and benefits stopped or reduced if they are working.

Politicians should not be allowed to work in any area of their previous portfolio, ever, after leaving politics.

Do not introduce tax cuts for those on incomes >$200K.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on how my taxes are spent.

Marie Healy