

Protecting Australian jobs and Australian business

KAP is committed to maintaining a productive and affluent workforce.

It is essential that Australian businesses are able to compete internationally. Australia's necessary commitment to maintain a high standard of living to provide adequate health and aged care, education and infrastructure requires a strong economy, which is underpinned equally by an affluent work force and thriving business sector.

It is clear that foreign owned corporations and big business have a capacity and will to undermine Australian pay and conditions. It is also clear that Australian labour costs are higher than in many competing nations, increasing the economic pressure on margins for goods and services that are subject to international competition.

However, labour costs for Australian manufacturing, which has been hit hard by international competition, only attribute about 17% of the total costs in manufacturing. This indicates that the solution to the pressures on international competitiveness are in fact much more complex than adjusting the labour market.

It is clear that if labour pay and conditions are undermined and more financial pressure is brought to bear on the workforce generally, the economy will implode. Decreasing the rate of pay and/or the rate of employment results in less taxes to government, less money to business, less money to the private sector, resulting an almost immediate recession.

Any decline in the utilisation of a skilled workforce in Australia will simultaneously result in the decline of training for a skilled workforce. This will create a long-term crisis in Australia's ability to maintain a first world standard of workmanship on critical specialist services.

KAP is committed to protecting Australian jobs and maximising the productivity of the workforce to increase employment rates in terms of people in paid work, and more importantly, the people in full time work.

KAP is committed to achieving this through considered policies that actually support the industries and businesses that provide the employment opportunities, with a particular emphasis on small business.

Specifically, KAP will pursue policies that increase demand for Australian products and support Australian jobs and that will:

- ensure that all Australian Governments purchase only Australian manufactured vehicles where there is an Australian made vehicle suitable for the role;
- mandate the use of ethanol in all Australian petrol to stimulate regional economies in the grain and sugar industries;
- ensure that all uniforms purchased on Australian government funded contracts are manufactured in Australia using Australian materials where they are fit for purpose;
- ensure that any construction contracts undertaken using Australian government funds will use Australian steel;
- stop the use of 457 visas by big business as a means to replace or undermine Australian workers and Australian award pay and conditions;
- mandate premium shelf space on Australian supermarkets for Australian manufactured goods;
- aggressively wind back the market share and/or market power of monopolistic companies that control access to markets for Australian small business, like Coles, Woolworths, Graincorp, Glencore and CBH;
- commission Australian made naval vessels, including a new fleet of border protection patrol boats;

- reduce interest rates and bring down the Australian dollar;
- modify competition policy to give small business the same rights under the law as consumers; and
- provide public sector investment in a range of infrastructure initiatives, such as dams, roads, railways, and airports.