

Policy Document



Manufacturing

Revitalising Australian Manufacturing and Economic Independence

Since signing the Lima Declaration in 1975, Australia has witnessed a steady decline in its manufacturing sector. This decline has disproportionately affected regional towns, where manufacturing was once a pillar of economic stability. As an Independent Candidate, I am committed to reversing this trend by fostering a dynamic and globally competitive manufacturing industry that reduces our reliance on foreign supply chains and creates sustainable jobs.

Vision - A Thriving Export-Oriented Manufacturing Sector

Manufacturing currently accounts for only 5.7% of our GDP, and while it provides jobs for 6.7% of the workforce, it remains largely focused on servicing domestic demand. Our economic model has become overly reliant on population growth through immigration, rather than increasing labour productivity and competing in global markets. To build long-term prosperity, we must transition towards an economy that innovates, produces, and exports high-value goods to the world.

Key Policy Commitments

1. Tax-Free Earnings for Value-Added Exports

- To incentivise local manufacturing and exports, earnings from value-added resource exports, processed agricultural products, and manufactured goods will be exempt from taxation. Domestic sales will remain subject to standard tax rates.

2. An Open and Competitive Energy Market

- Remove barriers to entry and subsidies in the energy sector to ensure a level playing field for all energy sources and technologies.
- Prohibit the dominant energy companies (AGL, Origin, and Energy Australia) from controlling both generation and retail sectors or acquiring emerging competitors.
- Enable households, farmers, and small businesses to generate and sell electricity to the grid without restrictions, creating a decentralised and competitive energy market.

E: dunkley@andrewgatley.au P: 0421 082 097 W: www.andrewgatley.au

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Melbourne.

3. World-Class Vocational Education and Training (VET)

- Implement a Swiss-style vocational education system to equip young Australians with practical, in-demand skills.
- By 2030, aim for 70% of 16-19-year-olds to be engaged in VET programs where 60-80% of learning occurs on the job under private sector leadership.
- Employers pay a minimum training wage of \$740.60 per week, supplemented by government support where necessary.

4. Shifting Investment from Property to Productivity

- Redirect incentives from property speculation towards productive industries.
- Reform negative gearing and capital gains tax policies to encourage investment in manufacturing, technology, and innovation rather than housing bubbles.

5. Building a Resilient Defence Industry

- Develop an independent and robust defence manufacturing sector, ensuring Australia can produce and maintain its own military equipment.
- Expand capabilities in advanced manufacturing, cybersecurity, and aerospace to support both national security and economic development.

Why This Matters

Australia is ranked 93rd in the world in the Harvard Economic Complexity Index, placing us on par with resource-dependent nations like Angola and Kazakhstan. Our education rankings in maths, science, and language are also declining. Without a shift in economic strategy, we risk further stagnation.

By strengthening manufacturing, fostering innovation, and creating high-value exports, we can restore Australia's economic independence and ensure long-term prosperity for future generations. It is time for Australia to compete globally, not just consume domestically.

YOUR Vote, YOUR Voice...

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