

Roy Morgan

— Research —

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LETTER TO SHAUN CARNEY, THE AGE – SEPARATE “SPIN” FROM “FACTS” AND “POLICY” THE ALP GOVERNMENT NEEDS TO GET ON WITH GOVERNING OR IT WILL BE A ONE TERM GOVERNMENT!

Shaun Carney
Associate Editor
The Age
Melbourne
cc [Andrew Jaspan](mailto:Andrew.Jaspan@theage.com.au)

Dear Shaun,

Re: [Forgotten Themes](http://www.theage.com.au/opinion/forgotten-themes-20080530-2jvu.html?page=-1)
(<http://www.theage.com.au/opinion/forgotten-themes-20080530-2jvu.html?page=-1>)

I often read your [Saturday “Politics”](#) (despite your NOT using our Morgan Poll results published on a Friday).

It is time to separate “spin” from “facts” and “policy”. The media are still focusing on “spin”, they need to focus on the real issues – and the ALP Government needs to get on with Governing – the “campaign” is over!

You are correct about the “nonsense” regarding the way both parties are handling the increase in the cost of fuel and the way fuel is taxed.

In my opinion there should be **no tax** on items such as fuel, milk, bread, etc for the reason they are basic commodities used by everyone SIMPLE. The only issue is how to cover the significant loss of revenue, again SIMPLE – close Canberra and get rid of the masses of Public Sector rorts – Federal, State and Local.

You are **absolutely correct** when you say:

“The superficial media analysis this week that Labor won office by promising to bring down groceries and fuel prices is wrong.”

However, I **disagree** with the way you reference Work Choices in your next statement:

“Pressures on household incomes was an element in its (ALP) pitch but was nothing compared with Work Choices and Rudd’s argument that Australia was adrift, wasting opportunities on productivity, the development of industry, education, climate change and water.”

While Rudd and others in the ALP argued for changes in “education” and “climate change and water” they were very “superficial”, and still are, regarding “**wasting opportunities on productivity, the development of industry**”. Remember Julia Gillard promised all Australians higher wages once Work Choices was gone!

An ALP win was inevitable when the [RBA “fixed” the L-NP Government](#) 8 days before the election by putting up interest rates. FACT
(<http://www.roymorgan.com/resources/pdf/papers/20071101.pdf>)

However, even without the RBA increasing interest rates the Federal election would have been very close because of the way the L-NP handled Work Choices – or more precisely the failure of the Howard Government to articulate their policy honestly and in a way which made it clear it was the right thing to do.

In my April 29, 2008 [letter to Terry McCrann](#) I explained in more detail why the L-NP lost the Federal election, namely:

“Neither the Rudd Government nor the media want to know the FACTS.

“Work Choices” type legislation and a less regulated labour market is the only way forward, NOT what is being proposed by Julia Gillard and the Rudd Government.

The Howard Government didn't accept the facts on “true” unemployment or correctly address Work Choices. The LNP lost the Work Choices debate because they didn't explain the advantages of a less regulated labour market.

Our surveys before the election clearly showed those on AWAs were MORE satisfied with their jobs than others (we published this more than once) - there were about as many electors who were strongly in favour of Work Choices as there were those strongly against it.

Unfortunately the Howard Government **lied re: Work Choices** (as they did with "children overboard", the reason for sending troops to the War in Iraq, the AWB Iraq dealings, etc) by claiming "**nobody would be worse off under Work Choices**". So as not to expose this "lie", the Howard Government never admitted there were large numbers of people wanting to work or do more work (underemployed) – 1.5 million FACT!

[March 14, 2008 “The Fantasy of Full Employment” by Michele Levine, CEO Roy Morgan Research - Address to the National Press Club March 14, 2008](#)
(<http://www.roymorgan.com/resources/pdf/papers/20080302.pdf>)

Some people were always going to be "worse off" under "Work Choices" (as **they should have been**) because they were part of the **employment rorts** (still the case with too many Federal, State and Local public servants!).

Why should attendants at State Government "public places" get \$45+ an hour on Sunday and \$18 an hour Monday to Friday - a joke!!! Airport valet drivers are another good example of a workplace rort.

The only people who "don't understand" that the Howard Government didn't lose the election because of Work Choices seem to be the Liberals - **the ALP have reports which show what I have stated is a fact!**

The Liberals lost the election because they didn't debate why "Work Choices" works - Howard should have "lead the charge". Howard lost the election because of poor advice from Crosby Textor. Like Fraser, Howard should have had more than one debate - **SIMPLE!**"

Work Choices was a reason why the L-NP lost, NOT because it was wrong for the L-NP to have a policy which tried to improve productivity but because the L-NP failed to honestly argue the Work Choices benefits. Julia Gillard now needs to take up her ALP election promises **not to waste opportunities on productivity** and **start developing industry**, if not the ALP will be a "one term" Government. **SIMPLE!**

Regards,

Gary

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