

10 "To do" things for first 100 days of Albanese's second term

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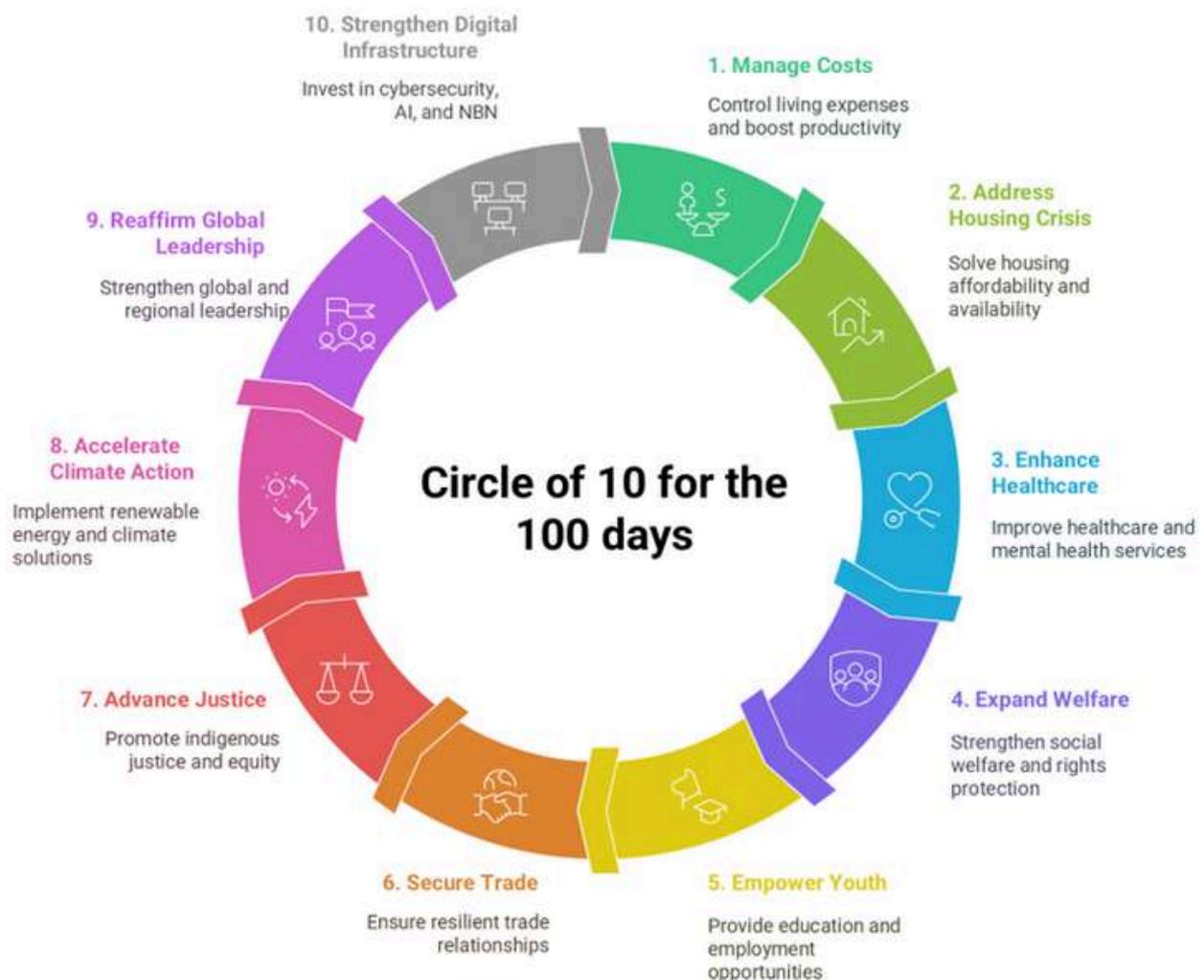
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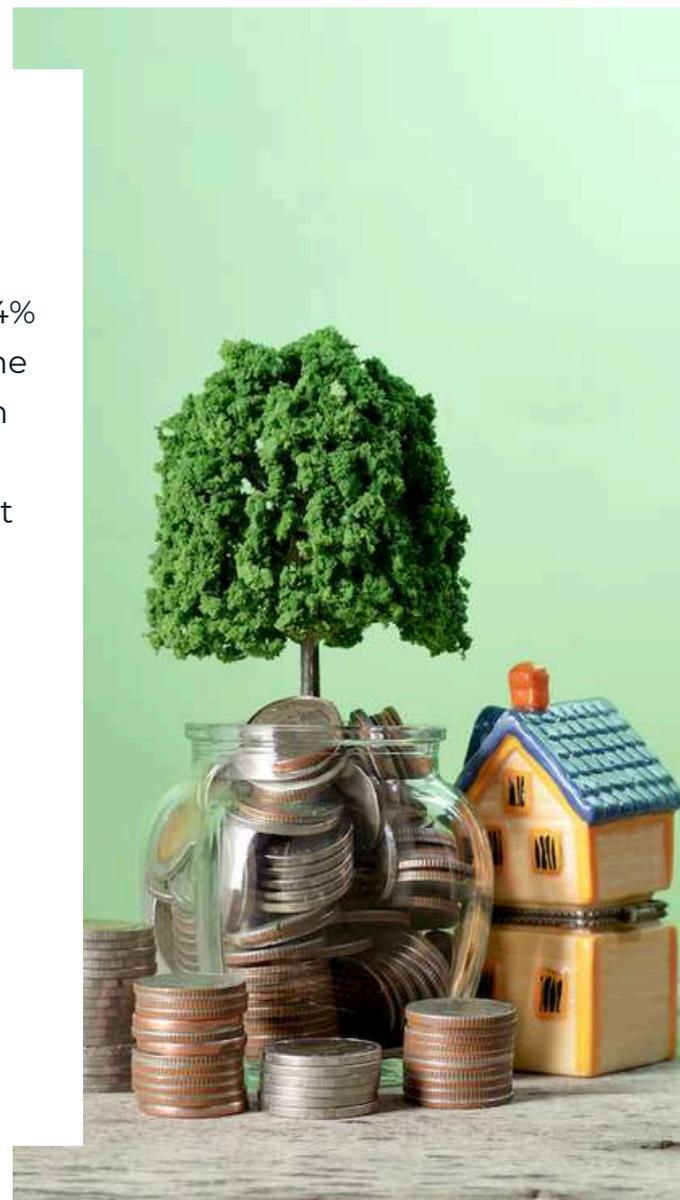


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01 **Manage costs of living and productivity gains**

The Albanese government must be swift in implementing the promised measures such as electricity rebates of \$150 per household, reducing the 19%-32% income bracket to 15%-14% by 2026-27, and targeted deductions such as the \$1,000 incentive. PM Albanese should also push the Fair Work Commission to lift minimum wages above the rate of inflation, ensuring that relief is not just temporary but structurally embedded. These measures need to be approved and activated sooner than later.

To top it off, for sustainable economic growth, Labor must start implementing the revised National Competition Policy and unlock the much-anticipated \$900 million Productivity Fund announced last November.



Tackle the housing crisis

02



With 67% Australians facing housing stress, the government needs to immediately start building 100,000 affordable homes with a \$10 billion investment. If implemented efficiently, first-home buyers should see tangible benefits through 2% deposit scheme and expansion of the “Help to Buy” shared equity initiative. Australia can learn from Finland’s “Housing First” approach which treats basic housing as a human right.

03 Boost healthcare and mental health services

In his campaign, Albanese announced a major healthcare package, including an \$8.5 billion boost to Medicare and a PBS cap of \$25 per script. The plan is set to invest \$575 million in women’s health, launch a 24/7 “1800MEDICARE” service, and add 50 Medicare Urgent Care Clinics among other initiatives. Additionally, Mental health is to receive over \$1 billion for youth services, online support, and peri-natal care, also reserving \$32 million to cater to men’s mental health programs. As per Labor’s promises, hospital upgrades in Sydney, Perth, and regional hubs will proceed alongside a new aged care home in Darwin and a \$2.6 billion pay rise for 60,000 aged care workers.¹⁰ Albanese should fast-track funding agreements with states and territories to begin rolling out the plans.



Expand social welfare and rights protection

04



Labor pledged to fund electronic monitoring for high-risk perpetrators, expand men's behavior change programs, and build more crisis and transitional housing for women fleeing violence or at risk of homelessness. Labor must also consider the enshrinement of socio-economic rights, like access to housing and healthcare, through a national Human Rights Act which align with Albanese's promise to "leave no one behind".

05

Empower youth with education and employment

Australia's youngest voters helped shape the outcome of this election and expect Albanese to follow through on Labor's promise to cut student debt by 20%, easing the financial pressure on millions of Australians. He must reaffirm his intent on expanding fee-free TAFE and vocational training, crucial in giving the younger generations, especially Gen Z, the practical skills they need for future-ready careers.



Secure trade resilience

06



As the Trump 2.0 Administration has reintroduced protectionist trade policies, Albanese's five-point trade strategy, if implemented, will benefit and protect Australia's domestic market and international stature. To combat the Trump Slump, the \$50 million export assistance and \$1 billion economic resilience funds should be activated within the first 100 days to help businesses diversify and strengthen supply chains.

Likewise, upgrading trade deals such as RCEP and the EU-Australia FTA, alongside boosting critical minerals development, will support long-term growth. Also, to shield local industries from unfair competition, Labor must fulfill its promise on increased funding for the Anti-Dumping Commission.¹² Timely implementation would require inter-agency coordination and stakeholder engagement.

07

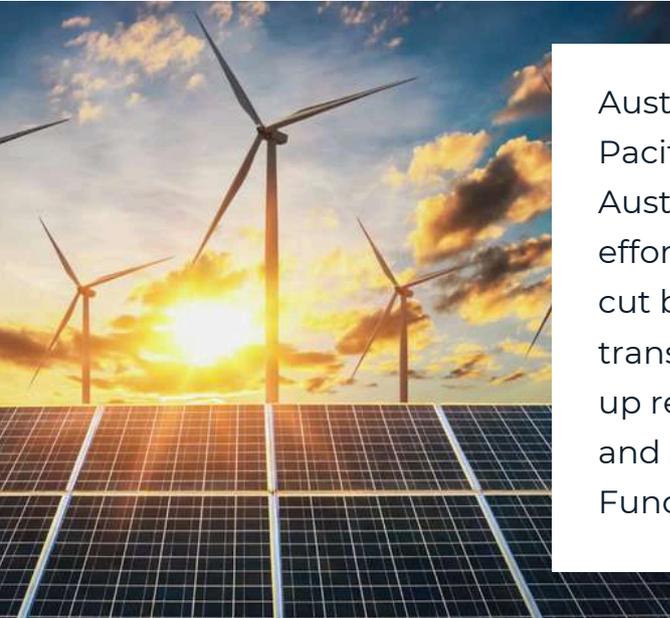
Advance indigenous justice and equity

The failed Voice referendum should not stall progress on Indigenous rights. Albanese may take legislative action which should raise the age to 14 for criminal responsibility and additionally assist in funding the National Commission for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People. Justice reinvestment programs must be resourced to reduce wrongful detention and deaths in custody of indigenous persons. The first 100 days should see real momentum on "Closing the Gap" commitments.



Accelerate climate action and renewable energy

08



Australia is bidding to co-host COP31 in 2026 alongside Pacific Island nations. If successful, it will be a test of Australia's climate credibility in terms of global climate efforts. Labor's legislated targets such as 43% emissions cut by 2030 and net-zero by 2050 matter only if they translate into visible progress. Albanese needs to ramp up renewable energy to reach the 82% national target, and be steadfast in fast-tracking the \$2.3 billion Battery Fund.

09

Reaffirm Australia's global and regional leadership

With shifts in US foreign policy, Albanese must start recalibrating Australia's foreign policy to form a strategic triangle that balances defense, economic, and regional interests. First, maintaining strong defense ties with the US remains essential in ensuring AUKUS nuclear submarine program stays on track. Deepening engagement in the Quad is vital for regional security. Second, expanding commercial ties with China is crucial which is Australia's largest trading partner. Third, strengthening strategic and trade relations with ASEAN countries is imperative to protect Australia's position as a leading nation in the Indo-Pacific.



Invest & strengthen cyber security, AI, and National Broadband Network (NBN)

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Given that Australia ranks fourth as a country with one of the most cyber-attacks, Labor needs to fast-track the \$50.3 billion investment to strengthen defense with advanced cyber and electronic warfare systems. Likewise, immediate support must be provided on the \$3 billion NBN upgrade, advancement of AI Capability Plan, launch of the Centre of Excellence, and to kick off the AI literacy campaign among others.

No time to lose

In the face of rising costs, climate urgency, and shifting global power dynamics, the first 100 days of the Albanese government will have a significant effect on the direction and pace of Labor's second term. To turn promises into tangible progress and meet expectations of the electorate who has given him a clear mandate. for Prime Minister Albanese led Labor government, there is hardly any time to waste as the clock starts ticking.