



SENATOR JUDITH ADAMS

LIBERAL SENATOR FOR WESTERN AUSTRALIA • DEPUTY OPPOSITION WHIP IN THE SENATE

PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
THE SENATE

BD053 042520

Dear [REDACTED]

Rudd Labor Government fails on illegal immigration

The most important role of any Australian Government is to provide safety and security to the Australian people. Protecting Australia's borders is integral to providing this safety, yet the Rudd Labor Government has failed to fulfil this basic duty. Only the Liberal Party has the necessary resolve to restore strength to Australia's border protection, with a plan to stop boats arriving.

In 2010 alone, we have seen the arrival of 37 boats and 1,904 unauthorised people.

Based on information provided by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship to Senate Estimates, each additional person arriving at Christmas Island is costing the department almost \$82,000, this means each additional boat is costing taxpayers more than \$4 million each.

The Rudd Labor Government is now moving asylum seekers from Christmas Island Detention Centre to the Australian mainland by charter aircraft. This is a clear breach of Labor's election promises and will send the strongest signal yet for people smugglers to send more boats.

Without a strong border protection policy these numbers will continue to increase as more people risk their lives and the lives of their families trying to enter Australia illegally. Rudd Labor's weak stance on border protection has fuelled the abhorrent industry of people smuggling, making 2010 the 'Year of the People Smuggler'.

In Western Australia we understand the need to keep our border secure. The Federal Liberal Party, under the leadership of Tony Abbott, has established a new committee on border protection to put further pressure on the Rudd Labor Government and their failure to handle this escalating problem.

I am pleased that a number of my Western Australian Liberal Parliamentary colleagues have been appointed to this important task including, Deputy Leader of the Opposition, the Hon Julie Bishop MP, Senator the Hon David Johnston and Michael Keenan MP.

The Liberal Party in WA and across Australia is committed to holding the Rudd Labor Government to account over their failure to secure our borders. Once elected, **we will reinstate an orderly immigration process based on strong border protection principles.**

The Committee on border protection wants to hear from you, to listen to your ideas and help send a message to Kevin Rudd in Canberra that Western Australians want something done.

With your help we can once again have an immigration process which is fair and one which stops the business of immoral people smugglers, as it did under the last Liberal Government.

Yours sincerely

Senator Judith Adams
Senator for Western Australia

HAVE YOUR SAY ON BORDER PROTECTION

Asylum seeker influx the highest on record

ASYLUM SEEKERS have reached a new record, with more than 100,000 people arriving in Australia last year, the highest on record. The influx of asylum seekers has caused a political and social debate, with some arguing that the country should take in more refugees, while others believe that the country should take in fewer. The Australian government has announced that it will take in 15,000 asylum seekers in 2008, a decrease from the 20,000 taken in last year.

Boat people surge Christmas Island to get 600 more beds

CHRISTMAS ISLAND is about to be transformed into a major detention centre for boat people. The island, which is a territory of Australia, is being expanded to accommodate 600 more beds. The expansion is part of a plan to deal with the surge in boat people arrivals. The Australian government has announced that it will take in 15,000 asylum seekers in 2008, a decrease from the 20,000 taken in last year.

PM draws blank on boat people
The Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd, made little progress with the maritime security issue over the handling of asylum seekers arriving in Australia. Rudd's government has announced that it will take in 15,000 asylum seekers in 2008, a decrease from the 20,000 taken in last year.

20 boat people arrive off WA coast
Twenty boat people have arrived off the coast of Western Australia. The arrivals were intercepted by the Australian Border Force. The Australian government has announced that it will take in 15,000 asylum seekers in 2008, a decrease from the 20,000 taken in last year.

Dear Local Resident

A Liberal Government, led by Tony Abbott, would restore confidence in Australia's border protection system. We would re-establish a suite of measures including safe haven visas, turning back boats where circumstances allowed and preserving our offshore processing system. This would again discourage the activities of people smugglers and stop places in Australia being taken by those who can pay, at the expense of those who cannot.

The Rudd Labor Government has been all talk and no action on securing and protecting our borders.

The Liberal Party has an outstanding track record in preserving control over our borders. When in Government, the Liberals proved that people smugglers can be stopped. By softening Australia's border protection regime, Kevin Rudd has given the green light to people smugglers and those who do not wish to apply for entry legally.

The Liberal Party will continue to call on the Government to restore Australia's strong border security system and stop the special deals.

Yours sincerely

Judith Adams

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Senator for Western Australia

Senator Judith Adams

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if posted in Australia



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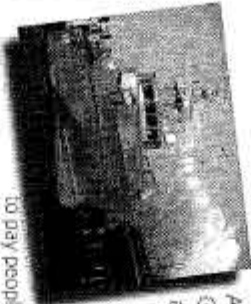
WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT BORDER PROTECTION.

BOAT ARRIVALS 2002 TO 2010

SOURCE: AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT

Border protection is one of the fundamental responsibilities of the Federal Government.

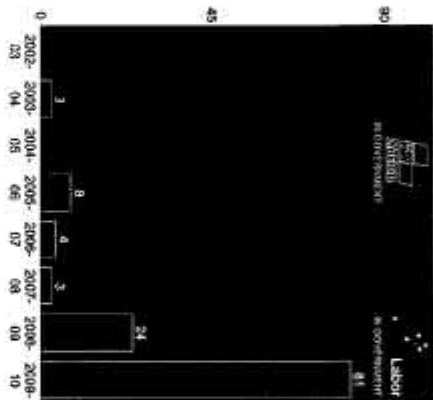
In 2008, the Rudd Labor Government dismantled Australia's strong border protection system. Since the Rudd Labor Government came to power, 105 boats and 4,875 people have arrived illegally (source: Australian Government). Asylum seekers to Australia in the past year have risen 30% higher than the international trend (source: The West Australian, 26/03/2010).



Although the Rudd Government will not admit it, the main reason for this increase in boat numbers is the message of encouragement it has been sending out to those who can afford to pay people smugglers to get them to Australia. Put simply, the Rudd Labor Government allows those with money to jump the queue.

This is a slap in the face for every person who has applied properly for a visa or as a genuine refugee through the proper channels and is waiting for approval. Labor offers soft policies and special deals to those who can pay to circumvent the system while those who follow the rules are forced to wait longer.

Under the previous Liberal Government, a strong and fair approach was taken towards border protection and immigration.



The Liberal Government removed the ability of boat people to apply for a permanent visa when they arrived illegally at places such as Christmas, Ashmore and Cartier Islands and implemented the Pacific Solution where illegal immigrants were processed offshore. This policy worked to deter would-be people smugglers.

The Rudd Labor Government is failing to make the tough decisions to protect our borders.



Other Information: _____

To the Coalition Border Protection Committee

Are you concerned about illegal immigration?

Yes No Don't know

Do you believe that Australia should have an orderly and fair immigration process?

Yes No Don't know

Do you believe that the Rudd Labor Government's soft stance on border protection is the reason for the increase in illegal boat arrivals?

Yes No Don't know

Yours sincerely

Name: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

Contact Number: _____