

# Abbott's broken promises reach 50 as the ABC joins the party

By Alan Austin

3 August 2014

 **Tony Abbott** @TonyAbbottMHR · Sep 6  
Finishing a few live news crosses from Penrith talking about our positive plans for Australia's future #ausvotes



**Tony Abbott's Coalition government has achieved the landmark 50 specific promises dumped. This coincides with the ABC coming late to the promise checkers' party. Alan Austin updates the list.**

The Abbott Government has busted the half ton. That is, 50 broken commitments in ten months. Five per month. That makes it almost certainly the worst regime for policy delivery in modern history — anywhere.

If Abbott's strategists had hoped Australia's mainstream media would all pretend not to notice, they are now bitterly disappointed. Public broadcaster the ABC has just joined the campaign to document the broken promises which *Independent Australia* [began](#) last November.

More about the ABC shortly.

First, let's update the tally with the latest batch:

## 50. Aboriginal legal services

Minister for Indigenous Affairs Nigel Scullion [promised](#) in May that front line services for Aboriginal people would not be reduced, despite savage cuts to overall Indigenous funding in the budget.

In July, the strategic \$500,000 a year Prisoner ThroughCare program run by the NSW and ACT Aboriginal Legal Service was [terminated](#).

## 49. Emissions targets

Before the election, Abbott [affirmed](#) support for the bipartisan greenhouse emissions reduction target of between 5% and 25% of 2000 levels by 2020.

In November, Abbott [softened](#) that commitment:

*"Australia will meet our 5% emissions reduction target, but this government has made no commitments to go further than that."*

Last month's carbon tax repeal [leaves](#) Australia with no legislation to achieve even the minimum 5% emissions reduction target its international agreements require.

## 48. Permanent residency

*'If the Coalition is elected, no-one who arrives*

*illegally by boat will receive permanent residency.'*

This was the clear – and frequent – [written](#) and spoken commitment by Abbott’s frontbenchers.

That was broken in July with the [decision](#) to apply ministerial discretion to residency and with at least one Ethiopian refugee now [settled](#) permanently in Australia.

### 47. Superannuation levy increases

In his campaign launch speech, Abbott [promised](#) to

*“... delay the superannuation guarantee levy increase because it's another cost that small business can't afford right now.”*

As the ABC’s promise checkers [show](#), this commitment was broken in July.

### 46. Overseas aid

Before the 2013 election, Joe Hockey [specified](#) a dramatic reduction of \$4.5 billion in Australia’s overseas aid allocations over the forward estimates.

The May budget actually [cut](#) aid by a brutal and inexcusable \$7.9 billion.

### 45. Fuel excise

Foreign Minister Julie Bishop, 3 April 2014:

*“There are no plans to increase the fuel excise.”*

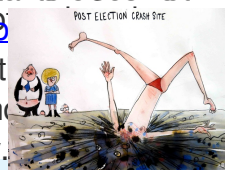
Five weeks later, on 8 May, the excise [went up](#).

Tony Abbott -"There Are No Broken Promises" We shall not forget RIP ~> Here lies Tony Abbott’s political career <http://t.co/9dWtJqeaSw>

— Mission Implausible (@Mysta) [August 2, 2014](#)

### 44. Privatisation

They are the latest in a long list of promises that the government has broken. In October 2013, Abbott promised to bring our total private sector first-13 were [do](#) in November, t in February and 15 [here](#) in May.



*“We’re going to do no more and no less than we promised people at the election. The only privatisation that they related to: [Abbott’s original](#), inclu*

we've got slated is Medibank Private."

- 1. Government has not commenced opening up the Royal Australian Air Force bases and the Australian Security Intelligence Commission
- 2. Business from the Toowoomba
- 3. Pascoe
- 4. Reporting on the Coalition's election: Justifying the debt ceiling his [Cartoons](#) and [Caricatures](#) [Facebook](#) page.
- 5. The UN Security Council seat [@davr](#)
- 6. Foreign minister's first trip abroad felt sick
- 7. Relations with the region g to
- 8. National broadband network technology of
- 9. Stopping the boats
- 10. Abbott spending his first week with the Yolngu — Mar
- 11. Open and accountable government [@mar](#)
- 12. Cuts to pensions [mar893](#)
- 13. School attendance [5 july](#)
- 14. No government job for Sophie Mirabella [30 2014](#)
- 15. No deals with the Greens
- 16. No cuts to ABC and SBS funding
- 17. No subsidies to industries
- 18. Monitoring whaling
- 19. Increased funds for aid agencies
- 20. Entering Indonesia waters
- 21. We will not tow back the boats

- 22. No knighthoods for Australia between 25 and 100 megabits per second by the end of 2016.'
- 23. No subsidies by the end of 2016.'
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*Government's term, it reveals 12 promises are delivered, six are broken, four are stalled and the majority remain in progress.'*

Six broken? Really? Why have only six broken promises been explored when fifty have been fully documented by several online publications? These include *Independent Australia* [refer above], [The Monthly](#), [Crikey](#), [The AIM Network](#) and [The Guardian](#).

Is this because the ABC is hog-tied by its charter which demands even-handedness, and therefore must report equal numbers of infractions for each side in politics, regardless of the ratio of actual offences?

[August 2, 2014](#)

The ABC [reported](#) on Thursday that

*'ABC Fact Check has launched a Promise Tracker, which follows more than 60 promises made by the Coalition in the lead up to the 2013 federal election.'*

Hmmm. Only just over 60? So how were they chosen from the hundreds made?

The ABC continues:

*'Ten months into the*

Will the ABC continue to show more promises kept than broken and thus bolster [claims](#) by the Institute of Public Affairs in *The Drum* that broken promises don't really matter much?

We shall onpass this series of articles – with embedded links to verification of our claims – and see what eventuates.

Regarding the prime offender, Tony Abbott, will he reach a century before the next election?

Or will he be replaced as PM before then so the counter can be reset?

'I do not break  
promises' says Abbott.  
Hmmm.  
<http://t.co/dnIrDV4PAV>  
[#insiders](#)

— DeeMadigan  
(@deemadigan)  
[August 2, 2014](#)