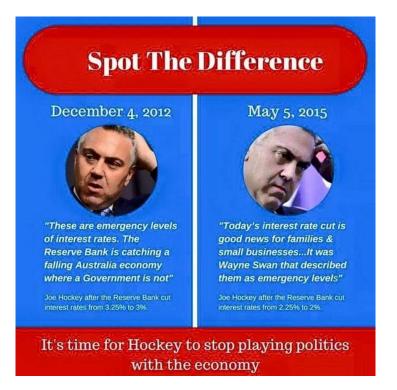


The hypocrisy of Abbott and Hockey at the halfway mark

By Alan Austin 9 May 2015



The deterioration in Australia's economy has been deeper and more rapid than even the most pessimistic forecasters predicted before the last election. The worst outcomes have been in those areas where Coalition attacks were most vicious in Opposition. As observers await Joe Hockey's second attempt at a federal budget, Alan Austin assesses the damage.

TWO HIGHLY DISTURBING OBSERVATIONS can be made regarding Australia's abysmal economic decline over the last 18 months:

First, the most monumental failures have been in those policy areas where Prime Minister Tony Abbott and Treasurer Joe Hockey were most arrogant and most malicious before the last election. Second, the mainstream media has failed utterly to report either the dire economic deterioration or the political hypocrisy.

A <u>report in *Crikey*</u> on Friday examined all 20 key indicators of economic health. Of these, seventeen have worsened since the last election.

Deficit and debt

Before the 2013 poll, both Abbott and Hockey took every opportunity to denigrate Australia's relatively low budget deficits and modest borrowings as a "debt and deficit disaster", or "debt ... spiralled out of control to a record level", or Labor's "six years of record deficits, record debt ..."

By April 2014 (according to ABC Fact

Check) Abbott and Hockey doubled the deficits for the forward estimates period over the levels bequeathed by Labor. Since then, revenue losses and increased spending suggest the deficits may have deepened further — perhaps as high as three times Labor's projected levels. We await confirmation of this in next week's Budget.

Net debt in Australia <u>left</u> by Labor in 2013 was just \$178.1 billion. At the end of March this year, less than 18 months later, it had <u>blown out</u> by 40.4% to \$250.1 billion, with projections for more.

Debt is still nowhere near worrisome levels, but is moving swiftly in the opposite direction to that promised.

> Abbott & Hockey doubled the deficit in just 9 months. Murdoch Liberal government of deceit. <u>pic.twitter.com/utEazkBnKW</u>

— Human writes (@ianw84) <u>December 24,</u> 2014

Infrastrificouncernic gro Tony Ablabbin epotitic stored of the subscribing to IA for which hiust \$5 rs boed on 't whith \$5 rs boed on 't which hiust \$5

... signationation and compandic

"... to be conviting and a local back of the second state of the s

deteriorated disastrously The rate of gross domestic product He denigrated the begins and the structure of t

So what the second seco

According to Any Chave maintained the According to Any Caratan Built (1988) 25 to detice (ABS) data (1786) 33 (1986) 25 to detice (ABS) data (1786) 33 (1986) 25 to detice (ABS) data (1786) 34 (1986) 25 to detice (ABS) data (1786) 35 (1986) 25 to detice (1986) 26 (1986) 26 (1986) 26 (1986) 26 (1986) 26 (1986) fell a staggiornal (1986) 26 (1986) 26 (1986) 26 (1986) fell a staggiornal (1986) 26 (1986) 26 (1986) 26 (1986) fell a staggiornal (1986) 26 (1986) 26 (1986) 26 (1986) fell a staggiornal (1986) 26

warnings.

Infrastru**l citeres values** nent is down more than a quarter from 2012 levels, the year Labor's Bynthockey leaves the the rear Infrastrunajor Milbister of the year by the London-based publication *lyfrastructure Investol* He said in 2013 The answer,

tragically, is almost Now let's assess Apport's arrogant *Ti interestanties covers down* assertions here **ITA emphasis** today, it is because the economy is structering were's because it is offer

"The Cadditing fiscal landate stone wy how

economy measure to the aspending ickly lower taxes this high engine locativity to

 produce higher economic growth." Ihat was when the rate was cut But it is highly unlikely any from 2.75 to 2.5 per cent — where it accurate reporting of this. remained for 19 months. Within six Continual decline will appear
 Lower spending Plockey taking charge it infrainstream news media fell to 2.25 and was cut again to 2.0 They don't want to believe it Outlaysthaverefact blown out enormously. is happening. And they don't compared with the prudent years of Labor want readers to believe it is
 under Helvolde Vicentinen in gueditzerot Gilays. A recent la entalysis af76etoracorsigloals debt blow-outsister Vicensia af76etoracorsigloals debt blow-outsister Vicensia af76etoracorsigloals debt decisionis.quick succession – down to 2.25

and ther YOO earnus the washing to what a submediate a submedia a

economic freedom score in 2015. Economic freedom Skrastlyebeddkabbeligst erektismalia through Autobe to the Sedneyr presseg top in the OECOnterethied that Micementality and sing appetimentation of the sedneyr and sedne

and Joe Hockey's The 2015 ranking, how everaged depastralia slip 0.6 of a point and low enthings as the slew Zealand. ".... we will tell to be the than the market be babor

The foundative/mghaghadedilindes/in/opga 2014 [IA emphasis] <u>BtcbJI</u>

So how much better are they doing? — Mark Bishop ... in investment freedom, freedom, from corruption and the log werk of ABS goverfingent, spendinger of unemployed

people seasonally adjusted in April

Lower taxes 59,500. That is 81,200 more people than were jobless in the

Finance betan menting tries for March show the Government is an atack to condect is gete billion in Ruddevillate Marmane Maryet in That is 6% above that scattane allebaction is 200 for 1.6 billion in 200 for 1.4. That, in turn, was 4.7% higher than the \$326.4 billion in the last full year under Labor 200 for 1.6.1%

Wages, in contriast, 2556 on phone with 2014 and 3.0% in 20 29.00 his s, clearly not at 10 m tax regime. pic.twitter.com/mFeGtUgBL

— Allan Henry John (@allanhenryjohn) <u>May 9, 2015</u>