

**25<sup>th</sup> August 2010**

**The Hon Julia Gillard MP**

Caretaker Prime Minister  
House of Representatives  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

**The Hon Tony Abbott MP**

Opposition Leader  
House of Representatives  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Ms Gillard and Mr Abbott,

Today, the three non-aligned MP's have completed their first meeting in relation to the current political negotiations that look to be presenting themselves, as counting from the federal election of August 21<sup>st</sup> 2010 continues to be completed.

In light of potential negotiations that may need to begin next week regarding formation of Government based on political party lines, we are requesting information on seven key areas regarding the current functioning of Government, and advice on the plans that your political party has to improve Government. Please find this request attached.

Using best endeavours, we seek this information as soon as possible so that fair and open negotiations can begin.

The three non-aligned MP's have agreed to return to Canberra next Monday to spend the full week, or longer if required, to work through the matters raised in this 'call for information.' We then anticipate negotiations to begin that are in the best interest of the nation.

We look forward to a sensible, focused and open relationship as we work through these important national interest questions.

**Yours Sincerely,**

**Robert Oakeshott MP, Tony Windsor MP, Bob Katter MP**

**TO JULIA GILLARD and TONY ABBOTT**  
**Requests for information**

1. We seek access to information under the 'caretaker conventions' to economic advice from the Secretary of the Treasury Ken Henry and Secretary of Finance David Tune, including the costings and impacts of Government and Opposition election promises and policies on the budget.
2. We seek briefings from the following Secretaries of Departments:
  1. Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy
  2. Health and Ageing
  3. Education, Employment and Workplace Relations
  4. Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government
  5. Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
  6. Climate Change, Energy Efficiency and Water
  7. Defence
  8. Resources, Energy and Tourism
3. We seek briefings from caretaker Ministers and Shadow Ministers in the above portfolio areas to discuss their program for the next three years.
4. We seek advice as soon as possible on their plans to work with the Clerks of the Parliament to improve the status and authority of all 150 local MP's within parliamentary procedures and structures. In particular, we seek advice on timelines and actions for increasing the authority of the Committee system, private members business and private members bills, matters of public importance, 90 second statements, adjournment debates, and question time.
5. We seek a commitment to explore all options from both sides in regard "consensus options" for the next three years, and a willingness to at least explore all options to reach a majority greater than 76 for the next three years. Included in these considerations is advice on how relationships between the House of Representatives and the Senate can be improved, and a proposed timetable for this to happen.
6. We seek a commitment in writing as soon as possible that if negotiations are to take place on how to form Government, that each of these leaders, their Coalition partners, and all their affiliated MP's, will negotiate in good faith and with the national interest as the only interest. In this same letter of comfort, we seek a written commitment that whoever forms majority Government will commit to a full three year term, and for an explanation in writing in this same letter as to how this commitment to a full term will be fulfilled, either by enabling legislation or other means.
7. We seek advice as soon as possible on a timetable and reform plan for political donations, electoral funding, and truth in advertising reform, and a timetable for how this reform plan will be achieved in co-operation with the support of the House of Representatives and the Senate.

The three non-aligned MP's will now be heading home to families, electorate duties, and a long-standing appointment with the Governor-General (unrelated to this political deadlock). We have agreed to be back in Canberra on Monday for the full week of meetings in relation to the above. We expect all the above information to be made available through best endeavours as soon as possible, so that formal negotiations with all stakeholders can begin by Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> September – if, based on final counts, negotiations are indeed needed at all.

**Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> August 2010**

**To the Caretaker Prime Minister the Hon Julia Gillard MP,**

The three non-aligned Independents would like to obtain a briefing from the Secretary of Treasury Ken Henry and the Secretary of Finance David Tune about the current economic cycle, the outlook for the Australian economy over the coming years and the likely impact of both Government and Opposition election policies on the budget.

We would also like to receive a briefing from the following secretaries of departments;

1. Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy
2. Health and Ageing
3. Education, Employment and Workplace Relations
4. Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government
5. Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
6. Climate Change, Energy Efficiency and Water
7. Defence
8. Resources, Energy and Tourism

We also welcome meetings with your political party spokesperson on the above portfolio areas and look forward to these being arranged through the coming week.

**Yours Sincerely,**

**Robert Oakeshott MP, Tony Windsor MP, Bob Katter MP**

**Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> August 2010**

**To the Opposition Leader the Hon Tony Abbott MP,**

The three non-aligned Independents would like to obtain a briefing from the Secretary of Treasury Ken Henry and the Secretary of Finance David Tune about the current economic cycle, the outlook for the Australian economy over the coming years and the likely impact of both Government and Opposition election policies on the budget.

We would also like to receive a briefing from the following secretaries of departments;

1. Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy
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6. Climate Change, Energy Efficiency and Water
7. Defence
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We also welcome meetings with your political party spokesperson on the above portfolio areas and look forward to these being arranged through the coming week.

**Yours Sincerely,**

**Robert Oakeshott MP, Tony Windsor MP, Bob Katter MP**