



A DIFFERENT APPROACH COMMUNITY Pty Ltd

Climate Action in Australia

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Website: <https://adacaust.com.au>

4<sup>th</sup> July 2022

Senator D.W. Pocock  
PO Box 705  
Gungahlin ACT 2912

Dear Senator Pocock,

We were excited when there was a change of government in Australia. Our anticipation has been buoyed by the actions of government with respect to such things as action on climate change, fostering closer links with our geographic neighbours, and action on aged care.

However, we have been very disappointed by the decision to cut the support to crossbenchers in the House of Representatives and the Senate. The people of Australia voted for these people and the cutting of their support is a cynical and anti-democratic act. They will not have the support they need to investigate legislation properly. How can this be in the best interests of effective government?

That the cuts are efficient economically is disingenuous. The cost is trifling given the scale of the issue. The salary bill amounts to that for one state primary school. We encourage you to express the need to reverse the decision.

We were hoping that the government would work for all Australians and would give them the opportunity, through their representatives, to have a voice in parliament.

The Labor government received 32.6 % of the vote, LNP received 35.7% of the vote and the crossbenchers received 31.7% of the vote. On this basic principal the crossbenchers should receive a very much larger research staff team than you are giving them and thus giving to 31.7% of people who voted for them. (*ABC News "Two Party Preferred" Figures*)

If the decision is not reversed, the community will be seeking to take action by:

1. Seeking to initiate a crowd funding scheme to support local representatives.
2. Establishing a data base of professional experts, including retirees, who are prepared to offer their services, pro bono, to research proposed legislation relevant to their area of expertise.
3. Appealing for sponsorship from individuals and organisations to support the work of crossbenchers.
4. Encouraging crossbenchers to vote against any legislation they have not had the opportunity to research thoroughly.
5. Using social media and other platforms campaigning against the Labor party because of its attempts to stifle true parliamentary process. Hopefully, after the next election, the matter will improve (if not before).

Yours Faithfully

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