



**Senator Jacqui Lambie
Senator for Tasmania**

Maritime Union Speech

**Devonport
28.15.15**

G'day – my name is Jacqui Lambie.

I'm an independent Senator representing Tasmania and I'd like to thank the Maritime Union and its leadership for inviting me to speak with you today.

It's a real honor to be here today.

I'd like to acknowledge and pay my respects to the traditional owners both past and present of the land on which we meet.

I won't waste time telling you about my life story and how I got to be a Senator.

The important bit is that I was born in Devonport to parents who know what hard work is.... who love hard work and the dignity it brings.

I'm a proud Tasmanian and even prouder Australian...

And I'm going to fight with all my strength to stop our Prime Minister and his government....

... and the opposition leader and his crew - from selling out Australian workers and giving their jobs to foreigners.

So it's not going to come as a shock to you when I say that the Government can go to hell – I will never vote for their Coast Shipping legislation.

It's a recipe to kill off the rest of Australian Maritime workers' jobs...



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And I'm not going to stand by and watch silently, as Australian jobs are taken by overseas workers...

But at the same time I'm not going to stick my head in the sand and pretend that we can continue doing business in the same way – and that efficiencies and work place reform is a thing of the past.

I believe that I'm talking with a group of people who know that in order for Australian Businesses to compete and make a profit in a corrupt and unfair world market ...

... compromise will have to be made on both sides – by management and workers, if Australian jobs are to be protected and new jobs created for our children.

In the maritime industry, I believe that if we all get together (*as we've already started*) and have honest conversations, in spirit of goodwill and conciliation – collectively we can come up with a workable plan, which we can put to government and opposition.

Instead of sitting back and copping that rubbish policy and laws that both the Government and opposition have dished up to the workers over the years – and quite clearly has not worked – and brought the Australian Maritime and other industries to their knees.

I've had some very interesting meetings over the last week. I've been very lucky to meet, receive advice and learn lessons from a range of great Australians – Blue Scope Steel workers, Lindsay Fox and Dick Smith.

I bumped into a group of AWU members who were Blue Scope steel workers at a Café in parliament house. This was the second time I met them – and they were very upset.

The government minister Pyne refused to see them – the opposition leader didn't have time – so I asked them to pop up to my office when they'd finished their snacks.



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They came to my office – we had a chat and I was stunned to hear that they only got to talk with Bill Shorten's staff and not with the great man himself.

These were people from the same union as Bill.

So I got my office to organize a snap press conference with some backbenchers and the Blue Scope steel workers and union reps – and I kicked every political head I could reach for allowing this crisis to be created.

Why don't we have an official government procurement policy, which means that we buy the 700,000 ton of steel needed each year by state and federal governments – from local steel manufacturers?

Why is our government allowing cheap Chinese steel to be dumped without penalty in our domestic market?

Are just some of the questions we put out to the media

And surprise, surprise – the opposition leader suddenly found time to meet with the AWU union delegation after our Press Conference.

And it looks like a compromise deal is in the making – I'm not suggesting that the press conference forced the deal – but it didn't harm either.

Most of you know about my involvement with the fight to save the crew of the Alexander Spirit.

Some of you may not know that I visited Caltex HQ in Sydney after the protests held here.

This is the Press Release my office put out after our visit:

Independent Senator for Tasmania Jacqui Lambie, used her visit to Caltex Oil headquarters in Sydney on Monday 20th July to confirm that more than 20,000 port visits would occur each year by thousands of foreign Petroleum Tanker



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maritime crews, who are not subjected to ASIO and Federal Police security checks.

“I understand that because of lax Government laws, all of Australia’s big oil companies, and not just Caltex, are legally able to, unchecked - chase profits, no matter what the damage is to Australia’s terrorism security safeguards and national interest.” said Senator Lambie.

“It’s come as a hell of a shock to me - and many average Tasmanians, but I now understand after talking with Maritime Union Members and Caltex Officers, that both Labor and Liberal governments have made rules which allow our big oil and other associated companies - to legally sack Australian maritime crew and replace them with foreigners on their tankers.

If our Coastal Shipping laws aren’t changed, the tragedy which has happened on the Alexander Spirit in Devonport (*where 36 Australian Crew were sacked so that cheap foreigners can replace them*) will continue to be repeated throughout our oil industry, until the 57 petroleum tankers required for fuel imports to Australia each year (see attached 1&2) are entirely crewed by cheap overseas workers.” said Senator Lambie.

“However, what I can’t understand is the dangerous, casual and *she’ll-be-right* attitude that both Caltex Oil and the Abbott Government have displayed when I raised the issue of security clearances and health checks for those overseas maritime crews.

All Australian maritime workers are required to undergo rigorous security, criminal history and health checks by ASIO, federal police and other government agencies, before they are allowed to work on board our ships, including petroleum tankers – which are high value targets for terrorists.

A Caltex Officer when questioned about the threat from a Terrorist attack on their ships and their on-shore oil infrastructure, replied “*that was not likely to occur.*” This is despite the fact that Australia’s official terror rating is officially set as *High* - meaning a terrorist attack was likely any day.



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And at the time of his reply, we were sitting in an office which was a block or two from the Lindt Café - the site of Australia's ISIS terrorist attack!" said Senator Lambie.

"The Abbott Government, through Senator Abetz, has also continued to minimise - indeed cover up the significant terrorist threat to our border security and vital oil infrastructure - from overseas maritime crews when he recently told the Tasmanian media that:

To suggest one extra shipping movement from Singapore might pose a terrorist threat is an interesting proposition on which the government will not be spending an excessive amount of time.

Senator Abetz has been caught out lying to the people of Tasmania and media because his own Government statistics reveal that more than 20,000 port visits would occur each year by thousands of foreign Petroleum Tanker crews, who are not subjected to ASIO and Federal police security checks.

Senator Abetz should apologise for his lies - and for deliberately downplaying the very real threat his government knows exists to our environment, border and national fuel security from thousands of uncertified and untested foreign maritime workers.

It's clear that for the nearly 2 years of Liberal Government - a National security loophole has existed in Australia, which you can drive an oil tanker through.

And should a successful terrorist attack occur against our land and sea based petroleum or gas facilities – it will be partly because of a negligent, arrogant and casual attitude from the Abbott government and an Australian oil industry, which donates so generously to our main political parties." said Senator Lambie.

During my visit to Caltex HQ, even though they tried to tell me that they were an *A political* company, my staff and I gently reminded them that the \$34,000 they donated only to the Liberal party before the last election, contradicted their *A political* status claim.

And once again I call on the Liberals to give a guarantee that the \$34,000 dollar donation from Caltex and donations from other big oil companies to the Liberals' /



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Nationals' election campaign - hasn't caused their Prime Minister to support a coastal shipping policy which allows big Oil to make bigger profits, while leaving big holes in our border protection and national security systems!" said Senator Lambie.

"I'm informed by the MUA that, *Alexander Spirit is scheduled to depart at 0300hours Wednesday 22nd July and a vigil is being held at the assembly point this evening and along the foreshore at the early hours of tomorrow morning.*

Tonight my thoughts and prayers are with the brave crew and families of the Alexander Spirit. They've been put through hell and have fought a brave battle on the behalf of all fair-minded Aussies who believe that the chase for more profits is not a good enough reason to sack Australians and hire cheap overseas workers, while placing at risk our security and the National interest.

It was a privilege to meet and talk with them. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=03OQzcr_BIM " said Senator Lambie.

"Given their recent behaviour, God Help Australia If our big Oil companies were put in charge of the country.

It wouldn't be long, given their obvious influence over our main political parties, before they'd convince the Australian Government to sack our Diggers and hire Indonesian troops to guard our nation – because on paper, Indonesian troops are cheaper, would increase productivity and make bigger profits." said Senator Lambie with a very sarcastic, angry tone.

When it comes to the China Free Trade Deal – I've spoken against it and I will vote against it.

China is a dangerous anti-democratic country, run by a communist elitist – some reports say that China is in the process of changing from a Communist government to a Communist dictatorship.

Its actions show that it is an international bully, thief and liar. Both this Liberal government and Labor opposition pretend that entering a trade deal with China is like entering a trade deal with democracies like South Korea, Japan or America.



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Any grade 7 student will be able to tell you the difference between China and South Korea and why you cannot treat a private sector entity from China like a private sector entity from America, Japan or South Korea.

It comes back to openness, transparency, accountability, threat to national security, protection of Australian jobs, protecting Australian sovereignty.

One of the first warnings I received about the China Free Trade deal was when I interviewed an Australian Businessman who was told by an Abbott Government official - to sack his Ozzie workers and hire cheap overseas labor.

I was shocked when I heard that respected maritime business man Mr Bill Milby - from North Star Cruises had been told by an Abbott government official that, if he wanted to make more money and compete with the foreign competition...

(after it's let in by proposed Liberal changes to the Coastal Shipping Act)

... Bill should sack his Australian crew onboard his Australian built cruise liner and replace them with cheap foreign workers.

So I invited Bill into my Senate office for a chat. Bill repeated what he was told by the National's and Deputy Prime Minister's staff. I believe Mr Milby told the truth.

But I can't understand why this Liberal/National government is so keen to kill off Australian workers' jobs and replace them with overseas workers?

Is it just an insane hatred of unions and their workers?

On the 10th of September I put out a public statement which said: (and I quote)

I don't want to believe that, but we saw the government stand by silently as the 36 Australian workers on the oil tanker, the Alexander Spirit used by Caltex - were sacked and replaced by overseas workers.

And now Mr Milby has told the truth about this latest outrageous suggestion to sack Australian workers.

Our Prime Minister has broken many promises - and now the truth is emerging



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about the Liberals' and Nationals' plan to sack the majority of Australian maritime workers and have them replaced with cheap foreigners.

So how can you trust the Liberals and Nationals when they say that their China Free Trade deal won't sacrifice Australian workers jobs for unqualified, cheap Chinese labor? Their bias against the average Australian worker is obvious and clear to all.

The situation becomes even more concerning when you take into account the fact that just a few people who are connected with the Chinese government have donated an incredible \$5m plus to all our major political parties in the last couple of elections.

Neither the Liberals, Nationals nor Labor parties want to talk about the political influence that overseas money buys - but it's not often that people donate millions of dollars to political parties, without expecting a return for their investment.

Perhaps with the China Free trade deal and other Liberal / National Party policy, we're seeing a return on investment?

Given the amount of political donations they've received - which can be linked to the Chinese Government, it will also be interesting to see if Labor's opposition to and scrutiny of Mr. Abbott's CHAFTA deal remains strong.

CHAFTA Questions in Parliament

On the 13th of October this year in Parliament I asked the Government a series of 3 questions about the China Free Trade Deal which of course they avoided answering and delivered a speech.

The first question was:

I refer the minister to a recent ABC 4 Corners' report, which says: (and I quote)

- *"But there are hidden dangers in doing business with China: endemic corruption; a lack of transparency in both business and the legal system, and questions about where the money is coming from and whether ill-gotten gains are being laundered. "China (is) by far the biggest exporter of illicit*



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capital."

And

- *"With billions of dollars flowing out of China, international money laundering experts are warning that some of it is making its way into Australia"*

I also refer the Minister to Australian Electoral commission figures which show that since 2007 the Liberal Party has accepted almost 2 million dollars in political donations from 2 businessmen closely linked to the Chinese Communist government.

Can the minister give this Senate a guarantee that the Chinese money funding his parties' election campaigns – was not laundered ill-gotten gains?

The 2nd Question was:

I refer the Minister to Australian Electoral commission figures, which show that since 2007 the National, Liberal and Labor Parties have accepted at least \$4.8M dollars in political donations from 3 businessmen – (and I named the people under privilege) who are closely linked to the Chinese Communist government.

Can the Minister detail the steps his government has taken to guarantee that those funds are not from corrupt activities?

The final question was:

Can the minister give a guarantee that millions of dollars of suspect political donations linked to the Chinese government - haven't influenced the creation of a dodgy Free Trade Deal which:

- Undermines Australia's sovereignty
- Threatens Australian workers' Job security and
- Dramatically decreases scrutiny on investment from a country, which is a bully, thief, liar and a serious security threat to Australia?

In the Speech to the Senate Shortly after I asked the questions I told the Senate, (and I quote):



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Mr President,

The report from Australia's leading a Current Affairs Program - 4 Corners – last night, vindicated the warnings I've made - about the dangers of money from China, which is not properly scrutinized.

The answers today and other comments from Liberal Government representatives - in response to my questions –

... showed that there is no political will from the Turnbull Liberal Government to fix the problem of corrupt Chinese government funds, purchasing Australian property or Australian political party favors.

There's only a will, to cover up the truth - with predictable personal abuse and racist smears.

And I call for all Australian political parties to ban donations from money linked to China's communist government.

Mr President,

Only an independent Senator would have asked questions demanding answers about corrupt political payments coming from China...

... because the majority of Australia's main political parties (Liberals, Nationals and Labor parties) are receiving millions of dollars linked to the Chinese State or their associates.

Mr President,

Our leading Radio Current affairs program – AM on Radio National recently reported that: (and I quote)

<http://www.abc.net.au/am/content/2015/s4329628.htm>

- The flood of Chinese money into Australia's hot real estate market has prompted calls for new rules that would force solicitors and real estate agents to report suspicious financial transactions.*



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- *A Four Corners investigation has found no Australian agency is charged with identifying the true source of foreign funds streaming in from China.*
- *Insiders say unless Australia asks more questions, or enforces better standards, it could inadvertently become a safe haven for corrupt funds.*

Mr President,

It is stunning that one of our most important National watchdogs - The Foreign Investment Review Board, deems the issue of dirty money to be outside its scope of responsibility!

I'll quote again from the Radio National report:

- *Two former board members have confirmed concerns about offshore corruption are rarely discussed, even though \$US1.25 trillion worth of corrupt and criminal proceeds from China is estimated to have been spent around the world in the decade to 2012.*
- *No federal authority checks the source of Chinese investment unless there are obvious concerns about drug trafficking or other serious crimes.*
- *But Raymond Baker from Washington DC's Global Financial Integrity says ignorance could cost Australia.*

Mr President,

Mr Baker is being kind when he describes the fact that no Australian agency is charged with identifying the true source of foreign funds streaming in from China – as ignorance.

It's not ignorance!

It's deliberate – it's seditious – it's criminal – because no one could be so stupid to stand by and allow the sell off of Australia and the undermining of our National security and sovereignty to Chinese Communist Crooks!



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Unfortunately for Australia's future generations - our food, water, energy, national and workers securities – are being compromised by the dirty deals the Liberal, National and Labor party members of this parliament are prepared to do with those who owe their wealth to the small group of elite people that rule the Chinese people.

The answers given by the minister representing the PM – Senator Brandis only confirmed the very serious threat that the China Free Trade Deal poses to Australia's:

- *National sovereignty*
- *Workers' Job security and*
- *Proper scrutiny of investment from a country, which everyone knows - is an international bully, thief and liar.*

China right now is:

1. *Flexing its military muscles in the international waters of the SE China Sea – bullying international shipping – the Americans are even risking an armed confrontation with China as I speak by sailing through contested international waters.*
2. *Stealing every piece of data and intellectual property not nailed down in Cyberspace.*

And I'm yet to find one economic expert who is willing to say they trust any financial or economic figures to come out of mainland China!

So clearly the Chinese government, is an international bully, thief and liar – who is a serious security threat to Australia and our allies.

These latest media reports, combined with the evasive, predictable condescending replies to my questions –

... show the Chinese Government and its ruling Communist elite have been caught out using their unlimited financial might, to infiltrate Australia by stealth...



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.. and attack our National security and sovereignty – So that they can further their national interest and gradually impose their corrupt, totalitarian culture on us.

Or as one digger from the Korean War said – what the Chinese failed to do by the bullet and bomb in the 1950's –

... they're now doing with their cheque books and political donations in 2015.

(End of quote)

Before I close, because I've been requested by your members – I'll briefly outline some plans the Jacqui Lambie Network has for the future.

The JLN will begin its plans for world domination (pause for laughter)

.. by standing red hot Senate candidates in Tasmania, Victoria, QLD – and I'm hoping to line up similar candidates in the other states.

For the next federal election I'll focus my network's resources on the upper house – but if Brett Whiteley pisses me off any more, and I get enough support - for the seat of Braddon I would consider running a candidate in the lower house.

My view is that if Labor want a chance of competing at the next federal election now that Malcolm Turnbull has replaced the political psychopath ...

(...remember when the media got outraged when I labeled Abbott a political psychopath after his horror 2014 budget?)

... Labor has to change leadership from Bill Shorten to Anthony Albanese or another – perhaps Jenny Macklin or Chris Bowen and they have to change their support for the Liberal's China Free Trade Policy.

As for the JLN policy – we'll take to the elections...

The first policy – is that you always put your state and electorate first and when it comes to all the moral issues (abortion, euthanasia, gay marriage – stem cell research) you are allowed a conscience vote.

Recently I had a meeting with the new Prime Minister and I gave him a couple of letters, which described my policies for Tasmania and the Nation.



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In total there are 40 policy points I raised with the PM. 10 specifically for Tasmanian and 30 National policy initiatives that will steer JLN into the future

(I've made some copies of the letters - which I'll leave with you for your consideration)

I'd just like you to note that all the JLN policies are based on 4 broad principles:

1. Food and Water security
2. Energy Security
3. National Security
4. Australian Job Security

I'll finish with the words I wrote to Prime Minister Turnbull:

Each initiative I share with you connects with, protects and enhances one or more of these 4 security principles.

I invite you to read and consider the JLN policies with an approach and attitude you have become famous for i.e. a reasonable, compassionate, proud Australian - with an open mind and heart.

My Network's policies help solve the short-term, social and financial disadvantage faced by many - and ensures the continuation of Australia's reputation as the lucky country.

Thank you for your warm welcome and kind consideration.

END