**Amendments Passed on International Engagement resulting from the lobbying efforts of Labor for Refugees and our involvement in the National Policy Forum Working Group**

*Delete paragraphs 211-215 inclusive a replace with the following and renumber accordingly.*

211. The world is experiencing its greatest humanitarian need since the Second World War with the largest number of displaced persons since that time. Labor believes that Australia should lead debate on the establishment of a best practice framework, including new regional agreements and understandings required to ensure that the Refugee Convention and the international protection system function effectively in this environment. That includes encouraging countries in our region to provide protection to those in need.

212. Labor is committed to the role of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) as the international agency dealing with the world's response to this humanitarian need. In pursuing Australia's responsibilities as a civilised and modern nation Labor in Government will ensure that Australia is one of the leading contributors to the global work of the UNHCR.

213. In South East Asia Australia has a particular responsibility to show humanitarian and protection leadership. Accordingly Labor is committed to playing a leading role in working with South East Asian nations in the region to build a regional framework to improve the lives of asylum seekers.

214. To combat people smuggling Labor will engage with Australia's neighbours to seek innovative, effective and lawful solutions to the irregular movement of people through the region. This approach will include multilateral engagement, particularly through Australia being a co-chair of the Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime (the Bali Process), and new and deeper bilateral arrangements of a type envisaged by the Regional Cooperation Framework agreed at the Bali Process Ministerial Conference in March 2011.

215. Labor in Government will seek to ensure that appropriate multilateral infrastructure is also in place to build a humanitarian regional framework which may include seeking to extend the work of existing multilateral processes.

216. Labor will work with the UNHCR to help build its capacity in South East Asia to pursue its mandate and assist the region's asylum seekers.

217. The phenomenon of people smuggling has a long history arising from the need for people to escape from danger and persecution. Labor also recognises that those who decide to leave a country in perilous circumstances have the right under the Refugee Convention to determine their means of departure. However, recognising the risk to life of people travelling on unsafe, unseaworthy and overcrowded boats often operated by criminal syndicates, Labor supports measures to reduce such journeys by working with regional neighbours and the UNHCR to eliminate any influence that people smugglers may have over vulnerable protection claimants by addressing people smuggling at its source, in countries of first asylum and transit countries.

218. The most significant source country in South East Asia is Myanmar. Labor recognises the enormous political and economic reforms Myanmar has undertaken. Labor in Government would seek to support Myanmar on its road to democracy and in continuing to build human rights for all those living in Myanmar. This would include assisting Myanmar provide opportunities for all communities to participate in society, especially those in the poorest regions.

219. In pursuing strong regional arrangements Labor will seek to ensure they provide access to protection in countries of first asylum and transit countries to deter secondary movements of asylum seekers through;

* The developing of capacity to improve accommodation, work rights, access to health and education services and other living standards for asylum seekers;
* Expediting the claims for refugee status by asylum seekers; and
* The seeking of durable solutions.

220. Labor in Government will increase the humanitarian intake of refugees to create an orderly pathway to resettlement in Australia for asylum seekers at risk of people smuggling and provide asylum seekers with an alternative to boat travel to Australia.

221. Noting that Pacific Island nations have a particular vulnerability to the effects of climate change, and that these nations have expressed a clear desire for Pacific peoples to continue to live in their own countries where possible, and acknowledging Australia's unique responsibilities in the Pacific, Labor will:

* Support Pacific Islanders to remain in their homelands as the first response to this challenge;
* Work to assist with intra-country relocations when citizens have to be moved from low-lying areas to higher ground; and
* In the event that in the longer term permanent migration becomes necessary for some Pacific Islanders, work in close consultation with the region to ensure that appropriate settlement is achieved.

222. Labor will continue Australia's contribution to international aid efforts to reduce the risk of displacement and to alleviate the pressing humanitarian needs of displaced persons.