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## Coalition and WorkChoices pose big risks to jobs and Australia's economic recovery, say unions

The biggest clouds on the horizon for working Australians are Tony Abbott's plans to change the economic policy directions of the country and bring back the worst aspects of WorkChoices, say unions.

Australia's economy is outperforming the rest of the developed world because of good management by the Labor Government and industrial stability from the Fair Work Act, but this would all be put at risk by the Coalition, said ACTU President Ged Kearney.

Ms Kearney said more than 350,000 jobs were created over the past year, coinciding with the end of WorkChoices, and another 475,000 were forecast over the next two years.

But the reintroduction of WorkChoices and savage cuts to public services and infrastructure investment under the Coalition would jeopardise all that, Ms Kearney said.

She said the Labor Government's economic record was in stark contrast to the Coalition's plans.

"Last year as the Global Financial Crisis threatened Australia, the Government took tough decisions that protected jobs and set a platform for the recovery," Ms Kearney said.

"Yesterday's updated economic statement from Treasury gives working Australians cause for optimism for the next few years.

"The Labor Government's Budget provides for investment in national infrastructure, skills and training, productivity and participation, better healthcare, and long-term improvements to national savings.

"Australia's public debt is lower than almost all developed economies, and the Budget will be back in surplus within three years.

"The Liberal alternative would hurt working families.

"Tony Abbott opposes measures to stimulate the economy, will cut jobs and public services and is refusing to increase superannuation. The Liberals will also abandon the National Broadband Network and wind back other key infrastructure projects.

"His main economic policy is to bring back WorkChoices by another name."

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