

RICHARD MARLES MP
DEPUTY LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION
MEMBER FOR CORIO

STATEMENT

Being elected Deputy Leader of the great Australian Labor Party is a tremendous honour and I am grateful to my colleagues for giving me the opportunity to hold such a valued role within our party.

I congratulate Anthony Albanese on being elected as Leader of the Opposition and look forward to working with him, as well as our Leader of the Senate, Penny Wong and Deputy Leader of the Senate, Kristina Keneally.

Anthony is a living example of the very best of what the Labor Party represents, his personal story, his values, his commitment to fighting for a more equal and prosperous Australia will serve as a beacon for our party.

I also want to acknowledge Don Farrell for his mentorship and generosity during this process.

I recognise many people across our movement are still reeling from the election result on May 18. That hurt is very much justified, it was a very difficult moment for all of us, but our challenge is to now turn our focus to holding the Morrison Government to account, particularly as it returns offering such a barren agenda.

As a party, we need to re-connect with those who have traditionally, and those who ought to be voting for Labor. As a party, we need to broaden our appeal and grow our vote. That role falls on all of us and in the weeks, months and years ahead we will work together to make sure our policy agenda and political approach can deliver that.

I intend to work hard, be respectful and engage collaboratively with all my colleagues across our nation to present a unified and progressive alternative government for the Australian people.

The unity we enjoy is due in large part to Bill Shorten and Tanya Plibersek. I pay tribute to Bill and Tanya and thank them for their leadership.

As a party, our history gives us much to be proud of such as the introduction of universal health care, bringing about compulsory superannuation, creating the National Disability Insurance Scheme, and the Wave Hill land hand back to the Gurindji people.

Our future offers us the opportunity to build on this proud Labor legacy of improving Australia, we have tremendous talent across our caucus, we have passionate supporters who want us to form government, and we have unity. Now we start work on building the best possible case for people to choose an Albanese Labor Government at the next election.

THURSDAY, 30 MAY 2019

Authorised by Noah Carroll, ALP, Canberra.