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SHADOW ASSISTANT TREASURER  
SHADOW MINISTER FOR COMPETITION AND PRODUCTIVITY  
SHADOW MINISTER FOR TRADE IN SERVICES  
SHADOW MINISTER FOR CHARITIES AND NOT-FOR-PROFITS  
MEMBER FOR FENNER**

**LABOR WELCOMES GOVERNMENT ADOPTING LABOR'S COOPS & MUTUALS  
POLICIES**

Labor welcomes the Government's commitment to facilitating greater access to capital for mutuals and cooperatives, and clearly defining mutual enterprises in the Corporations Act.

Labor made these commitments on [10 November 2016](#), as part of our "[Inclusive Ownership, Inclusive Growth](#)" package.

We welcome the government's assistance in delivering these measures in a bipartisan fashion.

As the first spokesperson of a major party to have designated responsibility for member-owned firms, I also call on the Government to also commit to giving member-owned firms eligibility to access government grants on an equal footing with other organisations.

The clearest example is the Indigenous Advancement Strategy, which does not allow non-corporations to apply for grants above a certain threshold without special exemption. Cooperatives are a way for Indigenous collectives to further the goal of self-determination. Labor calls on the Government to remove the barriers to Indigenous cooperatives.

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