

Research Brief

Matt Grudnoff, Senior Economist at The Australia Institute

UNEMPLOYMENT IN NEW ENGLAND

New England is an electorate that has faced a rapidly rising unemployment rate over the last 3 years. It has seen unemployment rise 2.7% since the last election. Over the same period the national unemployment rate has risen 0.1%. The number of unemployed has increased by 2,094 since the last election. This rapid rise in the unemployment rate is the 8th highest of any electorate since the last election.

10 electorates with biggest rise in unemployment since the last election

Electorate	State	Party	Increase in unemployment since last election
Paterson	NSW	LIB	5.7%
Hunter	NSW	ALP	4.0%
Kingston	SA	ALP	3.8%
Dawson	QLD	NAT	3.7%
Lyne	NSW	NAT	3.1%
Cowan	WA	LIB	3.0%
Stirling	WA	LIB	2.8%
New England	NSW	NAT	2.7%
Mallee	VIC	NAT	2.6%
Farrer	NSW	LIB	2.5%

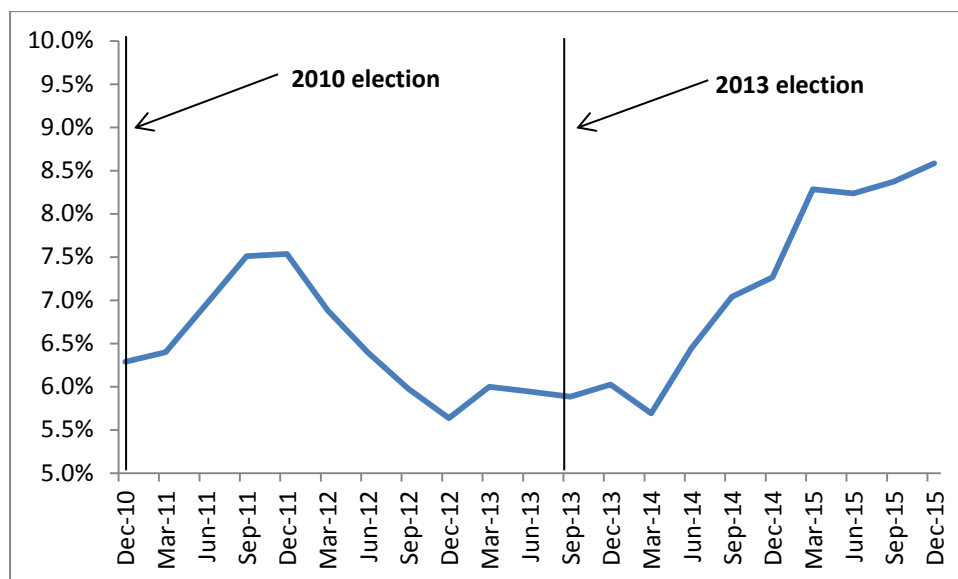
Source: Department of Employment: Small Area Labour Markets publication

The policies of the last 3 years have failed to prevent the increase in unemployment in New England. While the Coalition's mantra has been 'jobs and growth', this has not translated into positive outcomes for New England.

The increase in unemployment in the current term of government is a dramatic turnaround from the previous term of government. Between the 2010 and 2013 elections the unemployment rate in New England fell by 0.4%. The number of unemployed people fell by 397.

If we chart the unemployment rate in New England over the last 6 years, we see after an increase in 2011 there has been a steady but sustained fall in unemployment. Then soon after the 2013 election, at the beginning of 2014, we see a steady and sustained increase in unemployment to a level well above anything seen over the last 6 years.

New England unemployment rate over the last 2 terms of government



The national unemployment rate is 5.7% the unemployment rate with New England almost 3% higher at 8.6%. This term of government has seen New England climb to have the 15th highest unemployment rate of the 150 electorates in Australia.

20 electorates with highest unemployment rate

Electorate	State	Party	Unemployment rate
Paterson	NSW	LIB	10.9%
Blaxland	NSW	ALP	10.9%
Port Adelaide	SA	ALP	10.6%
Wakefield	SA	ALP	10.6%
Hinkler	QLD	NAT	10.5%
Kingston	SA	ALP	10.1%
Chifley	NSW	ALP	10.1%
Hunter	NSW	ALP	9.3%
Holt	VIC	ALP	9.0%
Calwell	VIC	ALP	8.9%
Bruce	VIC	ALP	8.9%
Wide Bay	QLD	NAT	8.8%
Watson	NSW	ALP	8.8%
Richmond	NSW	ALP	8.7%
New England	NSW	NAT	8.6%
Dawson	QLD	NAT	8.4%
Herbert	QLD	LIB	8.4%
Leichhardt	QLD	LIB	8.4%
Gorton	VIC	ALP	8.3%
Lyne	NSW	NAT	8.2%

Source: Department of Employment: Small Area Labour Markets publication

Media Inquiries: Tom Burmester 0468 926 833