



**THE HON DR CRAIG EMERSON MP**  
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Transcript  
Inside Canberra  
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Madonna King interviews Dr Emerson and Senator George Brandis

E&OE

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*Subjects: Population growth, Stern Hu representations, recent comments by Senator Barnaby Joyce on the Productivity Commission, mobile phones and tweeting in the House of Representatives, education and disruptive students, Alfie Langer drink-driving, Easter.*

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**KING:** So population is a big problem, everyone's saying that. They just don't agree whether we need more or less people. Some are saying "open the gates, let people come in and build our country". Kevin Rudd, for example, wants a bigger Australia. Others say "Slow it down, move people out west, encourage people to have less children, or eventually, we'll run out of food". Entrepreneur Dick Smith is one person proposing that argument. But how do you actually stop the population growing? Is this a bit like, how on the high seas can you actually turn an asylum seeker boat around? Can you really force people to live in Birdsville? How does a politician actually stop population? Cap the population? Just one of the issues we'll talk about now when we go Inside Canberra. Senator George Brandis, Opposition Attorney-General, good morning.

**BRANDIS:** Good morning Madonna.

**KING:** And I did that because someone wrote me a letter saying you always introduce Dr Craig Emerson first. So...

**BRANDIS:** I hadn't noticed that I must say.

**KING:** ...neither had I, but I...

**EMERSON:** Neither had I.

**KING:** ...I've moved to fix it immediately. Dr...

**EMERSON:** [Laughs] Even-handedness.

**KING:** Dr Craig Emerson, Rudd Government Minister, good morning.

**EMERSON:** And good morning to you and to George.

**BRANDIS:** Good morning Craig.

**KING:** And let's just start on population. Do you support a bigger or a smaller Australia? Briefly.

**BRANDIS:** Well I don't have any fear of a larger Australia, I must say. I wouldn't be prescriptive about the number of citizens that we should have. But you know, of the two great sources, or the two sources of population growth – that is natural increase and the migration program – I think that natural increase obviously nature takes its course, and the make - having a large scale migration program I think has been well accepted by both sides of politics.

**KING:** Craig Emerson?

**EMERSON:** I think this issue is best seen in the context of the ageing of the population that we have. At the moment there are about five working age Australians supporting every person...

**KING:** Yes.

**EMERSON:** ...over the age of 65 in – by 2050 there will be two and a half...

**KING:** So you're arguing that would be helped by a bigger population?

**EMERSON:** ...so we need a younger profile...

**KING:** Yes.

**EMERSON:** ...to our population. And that is obviously obtained by what George said, and that is natural increase; more babies. We had a baby boom that peaked in the early 60s - we were having four babies per family. Now it's down to 1.8.

**KING:** Okay so should both parties have an official population policy? Would that help the debate that's now being conducted on talkback and, and on various sites around the country?

**EMERSON:** Sounds like central planning to me. I think people should make their own choices.

**BRANDIS:** I think that what parties need to have and what governments need to do is to deal with the increased numbers better than they have. And south east Queensland is the, you know, the hot spot in Australia. There's no doubt about that.

**KING:** Can I stop you there. Are you saying you look at the flip side of this - it's up to governments to build and create the infrastructure...

**BRANDIS:** Yes.

**KING:** ...that will support the population, not hold a summit saying "we've got a population problem".

**BRANDIS:** Well I do think that Madonna. And you know, if you look at south east Queensland which as I say is where the problems are more acute than anywhere else in Australia, one of the reasons people feel the pressures these days, as they do, is because for 10 years we had a state government that was asleep at the wheel. There was no significant infrastructure spending in Queensland between...

**EMERSON:** George...

**BRANDIS:** ...1998 and 2007.

**KING:** This is not just a problem in Queensland though.

**BRANDIS:** No but it's more acute here...

**EMERSON:** You're all over the place on this.

**BRANDIS:** No, it is more acute here, than any other place in Australia.

**KING:** All right, let...

**EMERSON:** On many occasions on this program George, you have criticised the Bligh Government for going into debt, spending on infrastructure.

**KING:** That's correct.

**BRANDIS:** I've criticised, I've criticised the management of the state's finances because as Labor governments always do, they spend money wastefully and they don't spend it where it is most needed. There is no excuse for the waste on for example, a state public service that is out of control when that money of over a decade, should've been invested in infrastructure.

**EMERSON:** If you're to invest in infrastructure, whether you're a private corporation or government, it's almost inevitable that you will go into debt.

**KING:** Well...

**EMERSON:** And George has criticised that. But I do agree with him that the challenge is to develop ... I don't agree with his criticism of the Bligh Government. I agree with him ...

**BRANDIS:** You do, secretly.

**EMERSON:** ...on the challenge which is to provide the infrastructure in the right place...

**KING:** But do you think the state governments are...

**EMERSON:** ...and I think we should have a debate about that.

**KING:** Yes, state governments, Queensland and elsewhere, should be working harder. And local council areas to build that infrastructure.

**EMERSON:** In my view, there was an infrastructure drought in this country...

**KING:** Mmm.

**EMERSON:** From 1990 through til about 2007.

**KING:** But the reason I ask, because it...

**EMERSON:** And that involves by the way, Labor and Liberal governments.

**BRANDIS:** Well given... that's interesting...

**EMERSON:** ...so it's not, exactly, so it's not...

**BRANDIS:** That's an interesting observation Craig, because...

**EMERSON:** I do believe that.

**BRANDIS:** ...between 19, given that state governments are primarily responsible for infrastructure, and given that Queensland is the

place in Australia where the problems are most acute, what you're saying is that for the entire period of Labor government in this state since Goss was elected in 1989, your, state Labor government's been responsible for an, infrastructure...

**EMERSON:** In fact what it...

**BRANDIS:** ...that's terrible. That's a very revealing concession.

**EMERSON:** ...In fact what I'm saying is that the Commonwealth abdicated...

**BRANDIS:** [Sighs]

**EMERSON:** ...its responsibilities for infrastructure because of the philosophy you just espoused and that is - it's state governments who are responsible for infrastructure not the Commonwealth.

**BRANDIS:** Craig...

**KING:** Get...I want to get away...

**EMERSON:** We fundamentally believe the Commonwealth has a role.

**KING:** ...get away from the politics of this.

**EMERSON:** And that's why I make the general point.

**KING:** But, no but I want to stop. I want to stop the politics in a sense, because if you're listening at home, if you're listening in the car, you're hearing that there are so many population summits to be held in Queensland in the next couple of weeks. I think there's three of them. And the question is, is there something we can do about capping the population or moving the masses out west? Or making Townsville a second capital? Or is it more an issue of a government, no matter what its colour is, focusing on building the infrastructure? Because it's not really up to a government to cap a population.

**EMERSON:** Indeed. What are we going to have, a one-child policy?

**KING:** Right.

**EMERSON:** I mean, China didn't do really well out of that.

**BRANDIS:** [Laughs]

**EMERSON:** And it does have a different system. Like, it's not a democracy.

**KING:** But I said that this morning and someone said to me "No, but Madonna the government could actually put its money into

building things in regional Queensland so people have no choice - if they want a job, they need to go to regional Queensland”.

**BRANDIS:** Look Madonna, what we need more than anything else in Australia at the moment in relation to population policy is more natural increase of the population. As Craig said, it is a problem first spotted by Peter Costello when he introduced the intergenerational report, is that there has been a decline in the birth rate. And we put in some incentives in that famous ‘one for Mum, one for Dad, and one for the country budget’ that Peter brought in a few years ago that did actually materially increase the birth rate.

**KING:** Do you know on that night, that Peter Costello got up after the Budget and said “Let’s have one for Mum, one for Dad and one for the country”...

**BRANDIS:** Mmm.

**KING:** ...he delivered that at the same time I phoned my husband and said “Guess what?”

**EMERSON:** You’re pregnant.

**KING:** “We’re having another baby”.

**ALL:** [Laughing]

**KING:** And so I...

**EMERSON:** Now that is a very speedy response.

**KING:** And I always, always will remember that.

**EMERSON:** Madonna your point though about...

**BRANDIS:** That was the child talking...

**EMERSON:** ...about investing in infrastructure in the right places. I do think that there is an argument. A strong argument for not putting all of the infrastructure in south east Queensland. I think that Townsville does offer the prospect of a very much expanded second city for Queensland. I wrote a book on this in 2006, advocating exactly this. Now it is, I think if you put infrastructure in regional Australia, including a rail freight line through regional Australia, either supporting infrastructure, it would be more attractive. But I’m realistic enough to understand what’s happened in Australia’s history. And that is people do tend to go to the coast. Now I think we can do more in regional Australia...

**KING:** But you can't make people...

**EMERSON:** ...but you can't make them go to regional Australia and say "You shall not have a job in south east Queensland". Again, that's central planning.

**KING:** That's Dr Craig Emerson with Senator George Brandis this morning. Several issues to get through. Let's make it briefer with the next one.

Stern Hu. Kevin Rudd says China's conduct is 'unbecoming'. China last night expressed serious concern about our 'irresponsible criticism' of the jail sentences for bribery and stealing commercial secrets. Are we looking at a diplomatic row here between Canberra and Beijing, and how serious is it?

**BRANDIS:** Well I think the problem is that it's all very well for Mr Rudd and the Foreign Affairs Minister, Minister Smith to be complaining now that Stern Hu has been sentenced to a very harsh sentence. Bu they didn't do anything beforehand.

**EMERSON:** Not true.

**BRANDIS:** The thing that...they didn't do anything beforehand. Well Craig, here we are. You tell our listeners this morning whether it's the case, that Kevin Rudd picked up the telephone and spoke directly to the President of China and raised the Stern Hu case with him...

**KING:** But would that have been appropriate?

**BRANDIS:** ...at the...yes, yes it would've been and let me give you a comparison at a heads of government level. Because for example, late last year there was a British citizen who had been convicted of a capital crime. And the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, Gordon Brown, did that. He rang the President of China and remonstrated with him about...

**KING:** After or before the conviction?

**BRANDIS:** After the conviction but before the sentence, remonstrated with him. Now in the end, he didn't get anywhere but at least he tried. And that's the Opposition's criticism of this government.

**KING:** Now let...

**BRANDIS:** They didn't try hard enough to protect the interests of this Australian citizen.

**KING:** Let Craig Emerson answer that.

**EMERSON:** And that particular British citizen was executed. Now that's George's formula for success. The fact is that representations were made...

**KING:** You're not saying his execution was as a result of that?

**EMERSON:** Of course not, but George just said that Kevin Rudd should've done what Gordon Brown did.

**BRANDIS:** That's right.

**EMERSON:** Putting it forward as if this would somehow...

**KING:** would solve it.

**EMERSON:** ...Would solve the problem.

**KING:** All right so do you think though...

**EMERSON:** Now Kevin Rudd said yesterday and has said before that representations (inaudible)

**KING:** What was that representation?

**EMERSON:** We are not going to go into the details of the representations that were made at all levels, all the way through this. The consular assistance that was provided. The fact is that there were two charges. One was bribery...

**KING:** Yes.

**EMERSON:** ...and the other was commercial secrets.

**KING:** Yeah.

**EMERSON:** The bribery charge was held in...

**KING:** Private.

**EMERSON:** ...where our – no, open, in the open.

**KING:** Oh yeah, sorry. Yes.

**EMERSON:** The commercial secrets. And we think that the opaqueness of the commercial secrets hearings was a missed opportunity for China. In relation to bribery, bribery is a crime in Australia. Bribery is a crime in China.

**KING:** But that's not the question...

**EMERSON:** ...and he was...

**KING:** ...the question is should Kevin Rudd have done more?

**EMERSON:** ...convicted of that and actually admitted that he took bribes.

**KING:** Yes but the question is should Kevin Rudd have done more?

**EMERSON:** And Kevin Rudd and Stephen Smith and, at all levels...

**BRANDIS:** Well what did they do? Tell us what they did.

**EMERSON:** ...made very strong representations. But what we won't do is adopt the Barnaby Joyce megaphone diplomacy...

**BRANDIS:** I'm not asking you to do that.

**EMERSON:** ...of slagging off at the Chinese Government before any, when the man was first arrested and basically saying these are trumped up charges.

**KING:** All right I want to move on and listeners can make the decision on whether Labor should be more transparent in what representations were, or whether a government shouldn't actually reveal those kind of representations. And you might like to tell me.

But Craig Emerson, you just raised Barnaby Joyce. He's in trouble this morning for joking he used Productivity Commission reports as toilet paper, and calling the government school buildings glorified garden sheds. Is there anything wrong with that? Surely if you look back to what your former Prime Minister Paul Keating would say on a daily basis, Barnaby...

**EMERSON:** What, that he uses Productivity Commission reports for toilet paper? I don't remember Keating saying anything like that.

**KING:** No...

**EMERSON:** On the day, on the day when Tony Abbott was trying to pretend to be a serious economic policy maker, and in fact was talking about that very issue...

**KING:** But it was a joke wasn't it?

**EMERSON:** ...of productivity. No, he was boasting...

**BRANDIS:** [Sighs]

**EMERSON:** ...he was boasting about how he doesn't read serious documents. I think that is a problem. That shows not only that Barnaby Joyce is a risk to the economy but that Tony Abbott is a risk to the economy.

**KING:** Or is it that people see Barnaby Joyce as an easy target? They think he's being populist, he's...

**EMERSON:** The words came out of his mouth.

**KING:** Yes but they're words...

**EMERSON:** We don't make them come out of his mouth.

**KING:** ...They're words that when I raised the issue on talkback, it appears, and talkback may not necessarily be the best barometer but that people feel really strongly about him calling a spade a spade.

**EMERSON:** Well I don't mind someone calling a spade a spade. But saying that you use economic policy reports for toilet paper and do not read them, how could he claim to be a serious member of the shadow cabinet and an alternative cabinet minister?

**KING:** George Brandis.

**BRANDIS:** I've had my go. Look, honestly and truly Madonna. I think Craig and all the other Labor ministers who are jumping on Barnaby Joyce should really get over themselves. What Barnaby Joyce was doing he was telling a joke. And he was telling a joke in a, using a very sort of colourful metaphor to make a point. And that is, that the point is, that all wisdom doesn't rest with the bureaucrats in Canberra. He was saying something disrespectful of the Productivity Commission...

**EMERSON:** And of Tony Abbott.

**BRANDIS:** ...disrespectful of the Productivity Commission, to make the point that boffins in Canberra don't have all the answers. And I reckon that's what most people think.

**EMERSON:** He was undermining his leader, he was undermining his leader. Hell hath no fury like a Senator scorned.

**KING:** Twenty-six minutes past nine here on 612 ABC Brisbane. You make up your mind on that one too. One MP on your side Senator, this is Bruce Scott, says mobile phones are now destroying the dignity of Parliament and allowing lobbyists to pressure politicians while they're in the chamber. I'm not sure whether I should ask you whether Parliament has much dignity,

or whether the mobile phones should be banned. But let's start with the latter.

**BRANDIS:** Well there's certainly a bit more dignity in the Senate than in the House of Representatives.

**EMERSON:** [Laughs]

**BRANDIS:** Where mobile phones are not allowed in the chamber.

**KING:** Yes, okay, so mobile phones are banned in the Senate.

**BRANDIS:** Yes.

**KING:** So you can have one rule for the Senate and not for the House of Representatives?

**EMERSON:** Now I've just checked my mobile phone to see if I've got an answer for that one.

**KING:** Yes. [Laughs]

**EMERSON:** Look the truth is mobile phones are not banned in the House of Representatives...

**KING:** Should they be?

**EMERSON:** Not in my view. A lot of tweeting goes on, which I think is up to individuals. On our side we don't do the tweeting. But Coalition frontbenchers actually...

**KING:** What, you've decided as a party you're not going to tweet?

**EMERSON:** Yes. That's right we're the no-tweeting...

**BRANDIS:** There's a 'no tweet' policy.

**EMERSON:** ...'no tweeting in Question Time Party'.

**KING:** I think that is as unpopular nowadays as the 'no Earth Hour Party'.

**EMERSON:** [Laughs] Anyway we don't tweet...

**KING:** Do you tweet your friends?

**EMERSON:** ...but look there's nothing wrong with getting a message on a BlackBerry or a mobile. I'll give you an example. Suppose something is happening in the Senate at the same time as we're in the House of Representatives. It's worth knowing about that.

**BRANDIS:** Well you could just listen.

**EMERSON:** I can't listen to the Senate.

**BRANDIS:** ...you can just pick up your earpieces...

**EMERSON:** No, no, no, we don't have earpieces in the House of Representatives.

**BRANDIS:** Don't you?

**EMERSON:** No.

**BRANDIS:** Oh.

**EMERSON:** You don't have mobile phones, we don't have earpieces. We should get together.

**BRANDIS:** We in the Senate can listen to what happens in the House of Representatives.

**EMERSON:** Yeah we can't, we can't.

**BRANDIS:** Is that right?

**KING:** Well there you go. Perhaps you could do a trade here.

**EMERSON:** That's right.

**KING:** You ban your mobile phones ...

**EMERSON:** Yep.

**KING:** ...you let them have earpieces.

**EMERSON:** He'll ban everything.

**KING:** Very briefly, Peter Costello broken into print this morning...

**BRANDIS:** There you are, your mobile phone's going off.

**EMERSON:** Yeah I've just typed the answer. Phone's ringing now.

**KING:** Could you turn your mobile phone off?

**EMERSON:** That was my BlackBerry actually.

**KING:** Was that the Prime Minister telling you the answer to the next question?

**EMERSON:** No, no, it was my BlackBerry saying “George isn’t doing very well”.

**BRANDIS:** [Laughs]

**KING:** Peter Costello is saying in The Sydney Morning Herald, can a momentous moral challenge like global greenhouse gas emissions, just fizzle out like it? Or was the urgency, the emergency of a position on this and passing the legislation and racing off to Copenhagen last year, all politically driven?

**EMERSON:** Our position...

**KING:** Craig Emerson, has he got a point?

**EMERSON:** ...hasn’t changed. We remain committed to an emissions trading system with a carbon pollution reduction scheme. We hope the Senate will pass it when it’s resubmitted.

**BRANDIS:** It’s amazing you know. We, from the greatest moral challenge of our time all the overblown rhetoric at the end of the last...

**KING:** Stop. Someone’s just twittered ‘Politicians give twitter bad name. Please stop tweeting.’

**ALL:** [Laughing]

**BRANDIS:** Yes, well.

**EMERSON:** I don’t know how to tweet.

**BRANDIS:** That’s not something I...

**EMERSON:** I’m a technophobe.

**BRANDIS:** Look...

**EMERSON:** Techno-klutz. [Laughs]

**BRANDIS:** ...we heard of nothing but the stupid carbon pollution reduction scheme in the last two or three months of last year. These days, you cannot literally get the Minister, Senator Wong, to utter the words. This has gone from being the greatest moral challenge of the time to the great big new tax that dare not speak its name.

**EMERSON:** I thought that was Tony Abbott paid parental leave scheme.

**BRANDIS:** That’s not a great big... that’s not a great big tax.

**EMERSON:** Great big new tax on everything you buy.

**KING:** Two other quick topics in the next two minutes, if we can. This is from Melbourne, the Herald Sun. And we've tried to contact the LaTrobe University Professor Ramon Lewis, and still hope to talk to him.

But teachers are trying to restore order in their classrooms, are being asked to ditch tough measures for such tactics as standing on a green spot, or pointing to a message on a wall. Traditional methods for dealing with disruptive children, like detention or reprimands, are being cast aside in favour of teachers hinting at bad behaviour. And it's part of an education department program being tested at 100 state schools in disadvantaged areas.

Some of the methods, and they've certainly been criticised by some, ask teachers to give up power and become an 'agent' of their children. Strategies to improve class behaviour include involving students in deciding the rules, and discussing with them the impact of their misbehaviour.

Craig Emerson, your eyes are wide open and your jaw is...

**EMERSON:** Goodness [laughs].

**KING:** ...dropping.

**EMERSON:** All I can say is good luck to them. I mean, [laughs] here in Queensland in my local area in Logan City, there is detention. There are time out areas, if kids are disruptive, they are taken out of the class because it's not fair to the other kids. And then they are taken into a quiet room themselves. They're given tasks and they are asked to reflect on what they've done and develop with the teacher a plan to be better in the future. I think that's a...

**KING:** Do we need to stop being...

**EMERSON:** ...more sensible approach.

**KING:** ...do we need to stop being so namby pamby and just discipline children?

**BRANDIS:** Well, look. I don't pretend to be, have any professional training in educational psychology...

**KING:** And no one's accusing you of that.

**BRANDIS:** But, it sounds like a lot of nonsense to me [laughs].

**EMERSON:** [Laughs]

**KING:** The shoes for Africa are 76,797 thousand shoes, the first container of them arrived in a little orphanage in Zambia yesterday.

**EMERSON:** Well that's fantastic.

**KING:** ...And I know both of you supported that strongly, Craig Emerson particularly helped us. So very much appreciative, as are the orphans. Finally, I haven't stopped yet...

**EMERSON:** That's wonderful news.

**KING:** You've got an Easter egg for me.

**EMERSON:** Oh.

**BRANDIS:** I've got something for you Madonna.

**KING:** Excuse me we'll just go straight to the news headlines.

**EMERSON:** I'm counting eggs.

**KING:** I'm staying for my present.

**ALL:** [Laughing]

**[Newsbreak]**

**KING:** Look forward to that Gail, it's 28 minutes to ten, George Brandis and Craig Emerson Inside Canberra this morning. Your last question gentlemen. Alfie Langer is in trouble again and faces court on April 19. Forget the drink-driving, that will be dealt with by the court, but he was also spotted dancing in his underwear on a table. Isn't that just larrikinism and we're coming too harsh now on people who just show off and have a bit of fun? Or do you see it as something more serious than that?

**EMERSON:** Oh, I don't think he's set a really great example; I'm very fond of Alfie Langer and all the contribution he's made and continues to make. He's not a spring chicken anymore...

**KING:** ...He's a grandfather.

**EMERSON:** [Laughs] Indeed. You can imagine an 18, 19, 20 year old you know, footballer doing something like that, it's probably not the worst thing in the world, but now he's a real role model for them

and for other people so he's expressed his regret most remorsefully and I think we should just let it sit at that.

**BRANDIS:** I've got a somewhat more forgiving view of this. Of course, the drink-driving, nobody is going to forget about that, we're not talking about that, the guy goes out and he has a bit too much to drink and he jumps up on a table and puts on a bit of a performance. The only reason we know about that is because somebody recorded it on a mobile phone, and stuffed a whole of front page, a footballer goes out and has a big night, you know, so what?

**EMERSON:** Well I understand George has done this fairly recently, but there was no mobile phone.

**BRANDIS:** [Laughs]

**KING:** Do you see it as a sense of larrikinism? Because somebody said to me this morning "Are we just losing our sense of larrikinism?".

**EMERSON:** Well I agree with that, I'm a great defender of larrikinism, I just think this one perhaps doesn't pass the test.

**KING:** Why doesn't it pass the test?

**EMERSON:** Look, dancing on a table in your underwear... What actually possesses you to start taking your gear off in the pub?

**KING:** You don't do this?

**EMERSON:** No, I don't remember ever taking my gear off in the pub, and I've never had anyone accusing me of taking my gear off in a pub.

**BRANDIS:** Look, I just think that we are just a bit too censorious of people having a bit of fun and it looks terrible, but it looks terrible when somebody takes a photograph with a mobile phone and it gets published in the Courier Mail. I agree with that, but heavens above, I think honestly and truly in this country we want to morally censure people playing up a bit and if it doesn't hurt anyone, and this didn't, so what?

**EMERSON:** And it's not the end of the world, I don't think people should dwell on it.

**KING:** Do either of you just want to own up to anything you might have done which falls under George Brandis' version of larrikinism?

**EMERSON:** Oh, dear oh dear, we might have to make it the subject of an entire Madonna King program.

**KING:** George Brandis you don't have to answer that question because you come bearing gifts.

**BRANDIS:** Well that's right, I come bearing gifts now, I have an Easter egg for you Madonna.

**KING:** Oh thank you.

**BRANDIS:** An Easter egg for you. And there's an Easter egg for your producer.

**KING:** Oh Anne!

**EMERSON:** Oh, I'm going to miss out...

**BRANDIS:** And there's a lovely Liberal blue Easter egg for you Craig.

**EMERSON:** Can I swap you for the green one? No, that's very very kind of you George. I can report that it's an Australian-made Easter egg, it's not an Easter Bilby, but I gave one to you last year. You've given one to me the next year. I should have bought one in and I'm sorry.

**BRANDIS:** I was actually going to buy you a bunny, but they'd run out of bunnies at my local store.

**EMERSON:** I thought you'd get me a bilby because I was the former head of the Environment Department.

**KING:** George Brandis, thank you very much. And Craig Emerson...

[Pause]

**EMERSON:** Happy Easter... [Laughs] Silence is golden!

**KING:** ...Do you have a gift? I mean George Brandis has?

**EMERSON:** No I gave you an Easter egg last year, yours is coming again next year.

**KING:** And I look forward to it.

**EMERSON:** This is the ABC austerity drive.

**KING:** Yeah you might talk to the ABC about having me on again next year, George Brandis, thank you.

**EMERSON:** We'll put in a good word for you.

**KING:** Craig Emerson, thank you.

**EMERSON:** Thanks a lot Madonna.

**BRANDIS:** Thanks Madonna.

**ENDS**