



***“When billion-dollar bailouts become no-strings hand-outs:
Time for fairness for ordinary Australians”***
Let's Look at the **Qantas Deal!**

Today, I'm reflecting on how the government has treated one giant corporate entity compared to everyday investors and fund-holders who have suffered huge losses. Consider this: during the pandemic, Qantas received **around A\$2.7 billion** of taxpayer money from Australians to keep flying, keep people employed, and keep the economy moving. And when the airline recovered and made record profits, the Treasurer stated that Qantas **won't have to pay that money back** because there was no requirement for repayment when the support was given.

Meanwhile, our community, many of us small investors, retirees, workers, have watched the collapse of the First Guardian Master Fund and the Shield Aster Fund. These were funds in which ordinary Australians placed their trust, their savings, their super. When those funds failed, many of us were left holding the short end of the stick.

Here's what this says to me:

- If you're a big corporation, you get a multi-billion dollar lifeline from the public, recover strongly, and you keep your gains, no pay-back required.
- If you're a small investor or fund-holder, when the losses come, you're told “that's risk you accepted” and you're left to bear the burden.

That is unfair. It is unacceptable that one set of rules applies to the elites and big corporations, and a completely different set of rules to the rest of us.

I'm calling on our government to:

1. **Apply equal treatment:** if public money is used to support a private enterprise, there must be clear, enforceable conditions, including repayment if profits return.
2. **Ensure transparency and accountability:** for all bailouts, funds and recovery programs, including how taxpayer money is used and whether it is recouped.
3. **Provide justice for ordinary investors:** those who lost everything through the First Guardian and Shield Aster collapses deserve fairness, not excuses or silence.

We, the public, deserve a system where public support is not just a free gift to the big players, and where our integrity as small investors is respected.

If you agree, share this. Let's keep the conversation alive. Enough with two-tier rules.

Qantas & Jim Chalmers MP protecting **Australian lives and livelihoods** should always come before protecting balance sheets.

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