In 1966, miners were the second most significant driver after tradies of Labor's 2PP vote. The seat of Hunter recorded a 2PP vote for Labor of 74.4 per cent, turning the mining town into a Labor fortress.

In 2019, the three seats with the largest 10 per cent-plus swings to the Coalition were Dawson, Capricornia and Hunter. These were three of the top eight seats for male miners as a share of the workforce. The first two of these mining seats are now held by the LNP and the third has been reduced to a marginal seat held by Labor on a 2PP vote of 52.5 per cent. Of the eight mining seats, all but Hunter now elect non-Labor MPs.

The support of tradies for Labor has been in steady decline but white-collar women workers have continued to support the party.

In the 1970s to 2010, working families dominated Labor's support base. The group was made up of two demographics – “tradies” (22 per cent of male workers) and clerical and administrative workers (22 per cent of women in the workforce). The support of tradies for Labor has been in steady decline but white-collar women workers have continued to support the party.

These had swung to Malcolm Turnbull in 2016. Turnbull attracted the votes of inner urban professionals but at the expense of suburban working families. Bill Shorten brought the urban professionals back (in safe Labor seats), but at the expense of suburban working families, especially in Queensland.

Note: Swings as at Sunday afternoon, May 20, 2019.