



THE HON BRUCE BILLSON MP

Shadow Minister for Small Business, Deregulation, Competition Policy and Sustainable Cities

Federal Member for Dunkley

MEDIA RELEASE

29 July 2010

GOVERNMENT DOESN'T UNDERSTAND SMALL BUSINESS

A new survey for Australasian accounting firm WHK has found that 85% of small businesses feel that the federal Labor government does not understand their needs.

The WHK SME Pulse Survey, released today, says “This may be generally expected due to the individual size of these businesses, making them easily forgotten by the government.”

Bruce Billson, the Shadow Minister for Small Business, said he was not surprised by the finding.

“Small business has been ignored by the Labor government and its economic mismanagement has resulted in costs squeezes on them as the research shows”, he said.

The survey reveals that the lending environment is one of the biggest issues facing SMEs with cash flow and access to credit standing out as areas of concern.

Mr Billson said the announcement yesterday by the Coalition to cut the company tax rates for business to 28.5% would provide a real benefit for the sector by easing cash flow issues.

“But more importantly the Coalition’s commitment to cut the debt, deficit and waste of the Labor government would improve access to credit as government borrowing.

The federal government is borrowing \$120 million a day to pay for its debt and in doing so is competing for funds that could be flowing to small businesses.”

“The Coalition will cut the debt and deficit and in doing so will help free up funds for SMEs.”

Mr Billson said the Coalition believes in the importance of small business as the engine room of the Australian economy.

“The Coalition is committed to the small business sector and is determined to ensure that government makes it easier, not harder, for small business to prosper and grow.

“The men and women of Australia’s small business sector work hard, take risks and create jobs right across the economy. They deserve a government that supports them”, Mr Billson said.

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