



## THE HON BRUCE BILLSON MP

Shadow Minister for Small Business,  
Competition Policy and Consumer Affairs  
Federal Member for Dunkley

### MEDIA RELEASE

6 February 2012

## Pressure on Govt and cross-bench to cut red tape

Pressure is building on the cross-benchers and Labor to back changes to the Paid Parental Leave Scheme which would relieve business of the compliance burden of acting as the 'pay clerk' for the scheme according to the Coalition.

Shadow Small Business Minister Bruce Billson said he knows that small business people and their representative organisations want to see these changes and have been trying to harness the support of the new Small Business Minister and the cross-benchers.

"There is no reason why the Parliament shouldn't pass these changes which would make life easier for small business," Mr Billson said.

"I can only see one way these changes will be defeated and that is if the cross-benches or the Government want to play politics with the issue and oppose it simply because it is a Coalition initiative.

"It has been the Labor Government aided and abetted by some cross-benchers who have blocked positive and practical Coalition efforts to assist small business.

"Here is another test for MPs who claim to be pro-small business with the ball well and truly in Labor and the cross-benchers' court to get these positive changes through the Parliament."

Mr Billson said this isn't about reinventing the legislation or changing the Government-funded parental leave benefits, it's about making sure small businesses don't have to deal with more unwarranted and unwelcome red tape by acting as the 'pay clerk' for the system.

"Unlike big employers with whole departments to handle the 'PPL pay clerk' or their own scheme, most small businesses are already stretched," Mr Billson said.

"This legislation is a test for all MPs who claim to support small business."

The Government has scheduled debate on legislative amendments to the PPL scheme for Tuesday.

**Media Contact: Kane Silom 0458 550 506**