

4 March 2010

The Hon Nick Sherry
Assistant Treasurer
Parliament House
CANBERRA WA 2600

Dear Assistant Treasurer

Re. SMALL CONTRACTORS/EMPLOYEES

We refer to an article published on the *Business Spectator* web site of 3 March 2010 under the heading "One man can make Abbott PM", which states, in part:

"At the last election, Kevin Rudd might not have been elected had his party not guaranteed in writing to continue the same basic policy. And until now, Rudd and his people have honoured the ALP promise.

But in the background is a seething union movement that wants small contractors to be turned into employees so they can be put in their web.

In a nutshell, what happened was the Board of Taxation came up with a series of outrageous recommendations and Sherry – instead of saying that these recommendations were against ALP policy and that they would send small business into chaos – gave them his blessing and even thanked the unions for their input. Sherry has sent them off to the Henry Committee for review (*Full coverage: **Henry tax review***)."

If the report is of substance, and we have no reason to believe otherwise, we wish to convey to you and your Government our utmost condemnation for your reprehensible kick in the guts for small business.

This odious proposition, if adopted, flies in the face of centuries of principles that attach to the common law of contract, as applied to small business contractors, and we seek an unequivocal undertaking that this outrageous proposal will not be adopted as Government policy.

Yours faithfully

**Combined Small Business Alliance
of Western Australia Inc. (CoSBA)**

**OLIVER MOON
Chief Executive Officer**

cc Prime Minister, Minister for Small Business, Treasurer, Minister for Workplace Relations, Leader of the Opposition, Shadow Minister for Small Business, Shadow Treasurer, Shadow Minister for Workplace Relations