

Media Release:

Carbon (Dioxide) Tax and Business

The Federal Government's new Carbon Tax has Malaga business worried. To further understand the implications of another tax, Rod Henderson President of MDBA invited Senator Mathias Cormann, Shadow Assistant Treasurer and Shadow Minister for Financial Services and Superannuation to update the business community.

Small Businesses are the major employers and they are well aware that whenever compensation is offered by Government they ultimately pay more taxes.

Senator Cormann told the business forum that a carbon tax would push up the cost of everything, make Australia less competitive internationally and cost jobs without doing anything to help reduce global emissions.

"Labor's proposed carbon tax would just shift emissions from Australia overseas," he said.

"The government is speaking a lot about compensation these days - for low income earners and for the big polluters. But nobody in government is paying any attention to the impact of this carbon tax on small business," he said.

"The extra cost of power, freight and every other aspect of business will be passed on to all consumers. It will mean higher prices for everyone," Senator Cormann said.

Rod Henderson stated that business is already doing it tough and are paying higher for fuel, power and gas. This is another tax they simply can't afford.

Senator Cormann stated that billions of dollars would be collected by the Carbon Tax for no benefit given that major world polluters were not participating. Effectively the money will be spent on Labor's social agenda.

Senator Cormann said that the Greens had demanded the carbon tax and Prime Minister Gillard was forced to agree even though she had convinced Kevin Rudd to drop his proposal to put a price on carbon during the last term of Parliament.

Senator Cormann said the Coalition have a direct action plan to lower emissions, which will reduce emissions in Australia in a way that reduces emissions in the world.

"The Coalition will oppose Labor's carbon tax in Opposition and we'll remove it in government if Labor does succeed in getting it through Parliament," he said.

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Picture: Left to right Mr Vic Parin, Sen Mathias Cormann, Rod Henderson

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