



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

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NEXT BOARD & CHRISTMAS MEETING

5.00pm Tuesday 30 November 2010

Royal Perth Yacht Club

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Mobile Phone Numbers Go Public next month

All mobile phone numbers are being released to telemarketing companies and you will start to receive sale calls. **YOU WILL BE CHARGED FOR THESE CALLS.** Following is a link where you can enter your phone numbers online to put an end to telemarketing calls. Don't just delete those calls otherwise you will find that you have been signed up for all sorts of extra services that you didn't want or know about. Like special chimes, music etc.

<https://www.donotcall.gov.au/>

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Woodside land move to be felt 'around the world'

Aboriginal leaders and celebrity environmentalists have threatened to mobilise across Australia in a battle "as big as Noonkanbah" after the West Australian government yesterday began compulsory acquisition of land north of Broome to help kick-start Woodside's \$30 billion gas project. *The Aus* SOURCE: *WA Business News*, Today's Business Headlines, 3.9.10)

Resource states reap \$3.4bn royalty bonanza

The soaring commodity prices that underpinned this week's robust economic growth numbers are also set to pump an extra \$3.4 billion into state coffers over the next two years, thank to higher royalties. *The Fin* (SOURCE: *WA Business News*, Today's Business Headlines, 3.9.10)

In Unison 2010

The International Business Council, the West Australian German Business Association and the American Chamber of Commerce in WA are co-operating in promoting this event that is part of the In Unison 2010. The TechniCultural Festival.

The event will be held at the new state-of-the-art premises of MTU Detroit Diesel Australia. Please join us and hear first hand about doing business with the world; see the newest Mercedes cars and truck and join fellow business leaders for some networking and a Cocktail Party. (See In Unison 2010 flyer attached)

Perth City Link Project a step closer

A Brookfield Multiplex and Laing O'Rourke joint venture and a joint venture between John Holland and GHD have been short-listed as the final proponents for the \$600 million rail component of the Perth City Link Project.

Transport Minister Simon O'Brien said the short-listing brought the sinking of the railway one step closer. "Sinking the railway literally underpins the vision to redevelop 14ha between Perth and Northbridge - something which has been talked about for more than 100 years," Mr O'Brien said.

The Minister said the next assessment stage was crucial to robustly define the project's scope and competitively assess the two proponents. "In late December, the two proponent groups will provide the Public Transport Authority with their detailed documentation for the major works to sink the Fremantle line between William Street, and Lake and King streets," said Mr O'Brien.

The alliance contract will be awarded in March 2011. The rail project is scheduled for completion in 2014. The sinking of the Wellington Street Bus Station is due for completion in 2016. (SOURCE: *WA Business News*, Daily Business Alert, 3.9.10)

World's best chardonnay award for Cullen

Cullen Wines, one of the oldest and most revered Margaret River wineries, has beaten more than 10,000 entries in the world's biggest wine show to win the top prize for the world's best chardonnay.

The world's biggest and most prestigious wine show, The Decanter World Wine Awards 2010 held at London's Royal Opera House on Wednesday night, unveiled 28 ultimate world-beating wines including the 2007 Cullen Kevin John Chardonnay which was awarded the international trophy for chardonnay over \$18.

The four rounds of judging to decide the international trophy winners saw the Cullen Kevin John 2007 Chardonnay beat the best from over twenty countries including France, Italy, Spain, New Zealand, the USA, Chile, Argentina, South Africa and even China. Cullen Wines managing director Vanya Cullen said the Cullen team was thrilled with the fantastic news. (SOURCE/EXTRACT: *WA Business News*, Daily Business Alert, 3.9.10)

Fair Work backflip on Pop Art

THE workplace watchdog has backed away from legal action against a business owner who feared the company was facing a \$700,000 wage bill.

The federal government's Fair Work Ombudsman had told the design company Pop Art Australia that it had been underpaying its workforce. Colin Robertson, the company's managing director, maintained his firm had previously been told by government employees on eight occasions over five years that it was correctly paying its employees under the manufacturing industry award.

But acting on a complaint from a former employee, Fair Work Ombudsman inspectors visited Mr Robertson's factory in suburban Cheltenham in March, later telling him he should have been paying the workers the higher rates that apply under the storage services award.

Mr Robertson was told his company had committed award breaches and the former employee should receive \$25,380

in backpay. The Ombudsman might also commence legal action to recover outstanding amounts owed to affected employees, totalling as much as \$700,000, as well as litigation against the company.

After The Australian reported on the case in July, the Ombudsman conducted a further review and yesterday confirmed it had decided to withdraw the contravention notice. "The Fair Work Ombudsman remains of the view that its original finding was accurate on the basis of the information gathered at the time," a spokesman said.

"However, a further site visit to Pop Art and consideration of additional evidence provided by the employer has allowed greater clarity about the nature of the Pop Art business and the diverse range of products it manufactures from many different components."

The spokesman said three industrial instruments could apply to Pop Art employees but, on balance, it was the manufacturing and not the storage award that provided the best fit for the work performed. Fair Work inspectors will meet with Pop Art on Monday to discuss previous and ongoing compliance with the manufacturing award.

Mr Robertson declined to comment yesterday. But lawyer Grace Collier, employed as a consultant by Pop Art, asked, "What if Colin had just coughed up the \$700,000 instead of fighting the issue? "How many other businesses have paid money when they perhaps shouldn't have. Anecdotal evidence indicates that a vast amount of inspectors are ex-union officials.

"How do we know that these people are not using their powers to simply choose the most expensive award, like it appears happened with Pop Art, to get the best result for complainants? "All this comes back to the injustice of the situation," she said. "If the Ombudsman can form an opinion to prosecute, why can they not form an opinion to tell employers what their obligations are?" (SOURCE: *The Weekend Australian*, 4.9.10)

COMMENT: What an outrageous farce visited upon employers by the Gillard Government. How is small business supposed to contend with this crap? So much for Gillard's so called "Fair Work" legislation and the bureaucrats who administer it! *TCB*.

Greens flag blocks on NW gas hub

The increasingly powerful Greens have signalled they will make life difficult for Colin Barnett as he tries to get Commonwealth approvals for his acquisition of James Price Point. *The West* (SOURCE: *WA Business News*, Today's Business Headlines, 6.9.10)

Job ads up 42% in Western Australia

Job advertisements in Western Australia have grown 42.1 per cent in the last 12 months, according to the latest ANZ job advertisement series. This is despite a slight dip of 0.7 per cent in WA in August. Nationally job advertisements rose by 2.6 per cent last month, up 36 per cent on a year ago. This follows a 1.4 per cent rise in July.

"The pick up in job advertisements in recent months suggests Australian businesses are confident about the local outlook despite the uncertain global economic environment," ANZ chief economist Warren Hogan said. "This suggests the Australian economy is maintaining good momentum into the second half of 2010." (SOURCE/EXTRACT: *WA Business News*, Daily Business Alert, 6.9.10)

Enterprise strikes iron ore in Wheatbelt

Enterprise Metals has found what the company believes is a significant iron ore reserve at Burracoppin in the state's wheatbelt. Burracoppin is 280 kilometres east of Perth on Great Eastern Highway.

In a statement to the Australian Securities Exchange Enterprise said it had found a number of outcrops which displayed intense alteration of magnetite to goethite-hematite. Enterprise said it believed that the area had the potential to contain significant tonnages of direct shipping ore. (SOURCE/EXTRACT: *WA Business News*, Daily Business Alert, 6.9.10)

Joondalup Sunday trading a success: RTA

The Retail Traders' Association says the success of the first day of Sunday trading at Joondalup has sent a clear message to the state government that people want shopping hours to be more flexible. Thousands of people went to Joondalup [on Sunday], to take advantage of the shops being open.

"Demand for the choice to be able to shop on Sundays was so great that crowds queued outside stores waiting for them to open," said RTA director Wayne Spencer. Mr Spencer said the state's retail trading laws are archaic and needed updating. "The State Government knows it's on a winner with the public, with the Minister for Commerce Bill Marmion saying the big turnout vindicated the government's approach to changing Perth's archaic shopping rules," he said.

"Yet, the Government is only prepared to allow shops in Joondalup, Midland, Armadale, Perth and Fremantle to trade on Sundays. "This is unfair to the many retailers and shoppers who live outside these areas and would like to enjoy

the same level of choice and competition." (SOURCE/EXTRACT: *WA Business News*, Daily Business Alert, 7.9.10)

Business steps up pressure on MRRT

The newly elected Gillard government is already under pressure from the resource and energy sector to clear up the uncertainty created by the proposed minerals resource rent tax. The Chamber of Minerals and Energy chief executive Reg Howard-Smith said that the industry had suffered in recent months by the uncertainty created by the MRRT. He said the CME will seek urgent clarification on the status of the tax, following the announcement of a tax summit by Independent MP Rob Oakeshott.

Mr Howard-Smith said the industry was also seeking an assurance that member companies and sector jobs would be protected from the adverse impact of Greens policy. "Green support for a nation-wide uranium mining ban and increasing the rate of the resource rent tax would have a dire consequence for the industry," he said. The Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association is also seeking policy assurances. (SOURCE/EXTRACT: *WA Business News*, Daily Business Alert, 7.9.10)

CFMEU, McDonald fined \$48,000 for strike

The Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union and union boss Joe McDonald have been fined \$48,000 in the Federal Court for engaging in an unlawful strike at the City Square project in July last year. On July 15 2009, 143 workers went on strike and the site was shut down after attending a meeting with Mr McDonald. An initial vote by the workers did not support the industrial action.

"Shutting down a \$500 million project for 24 hours is an extreme course of action," said Australian Building Construction Commissioner John Lloyd. "The law reflects community expectations that building projects should proceed without delays caused by unlawful wildcat strikes. "The courts will penalise those involved in unlawful industrial action. This decision underlines that fact.

In handing down the penalties of \$40,000 on the CFMEU and \$8,000 on Mr McDonald, Justice Barker took into account the CFMEU and Mr McDonald's past record for similar contraventions. Justice Barker noted that "...The BCII Act is plainly designed to ensure that industrial dispute resolution will be resolved by means other than unlawful industrial action." He found that Mr McDonald understood "... the industrial risks ... in taking the action he exhorted." (SOURCE: *WA Business News*, Daily Business Alert, 8.9.10)

Hiring optimism in WA falls

Employment expectations amongst Western Australian employers for the next three months have fallen, according to an employment outlook survey. The Manpower Employment Outlook Survey of 2,200 employers found hiring pace may soften over the next three months. The seasonally adjusted Net Employment Outlook is at +19 per cent. The outlook in WA is still high at +32 per cent but that is down from 37 per cent in the last quarter.

Managing Director of Manpower Australia and New Zealand, Lincoln Crawley said the mining and construction sector has also seen a reduction in hiring optimism towards the end of the year. After building inventory during the recovery, it's not surprising to see these sectors paring back their investments at this time," he said. Mr Crawley said the uncertainty around the mining tax had affected hiring optimism in Western Australia and Queensland. (SOURCE: *WA Business News*, Daily Business Alert, 8.9.10)

Gillard buys power for \$10 billion

A new Labor ministry is expected to be named next Monday after Prime Minister Julia Gillard yesterday used a \$10 billion regional spending plan to secure the support of two independent MPs to salvage Labor from its brush with disaster at the federal election. *The Fin* (SOURCE: *WA Business News*, Today's Business Headlines, 8.9.10)

No backdown by Gillard despite storm of anger

The re-elected Gillard government will press on with its plan for a mineral resource rent tax in the face of attacks from miners, the State Government and even some Federal independents. *The West* (SOURCE: *WA Business News*, Today's Business Headlines, 8.9.10)

Call for fresh start on tax reform

Business leaders have urged the new government to commit to sweeping tax reform to boost investment and productivity and use the promised tax summit to repair the damage to Australia's reputation with international investors caused by the resource super profits tax debacle. *The Aus* (SOURCE: *WA Business News*, Today's Business Headlines, 8.9.10)

State the big loser: Barnett

A bitterly disappointed Colin Barnett said yesterday Australia now "had the most left-wing government" in its history and WA would be the big loser from the decision of independent MPs Tony Windsor and Rob Oakeshott to help Julia

Gillard form a federal Labor government. *The West* (SOURCE: *WA Business News*, Today's Business Headlines, 8.9.10)

Signs point to [interest rate] move up soon

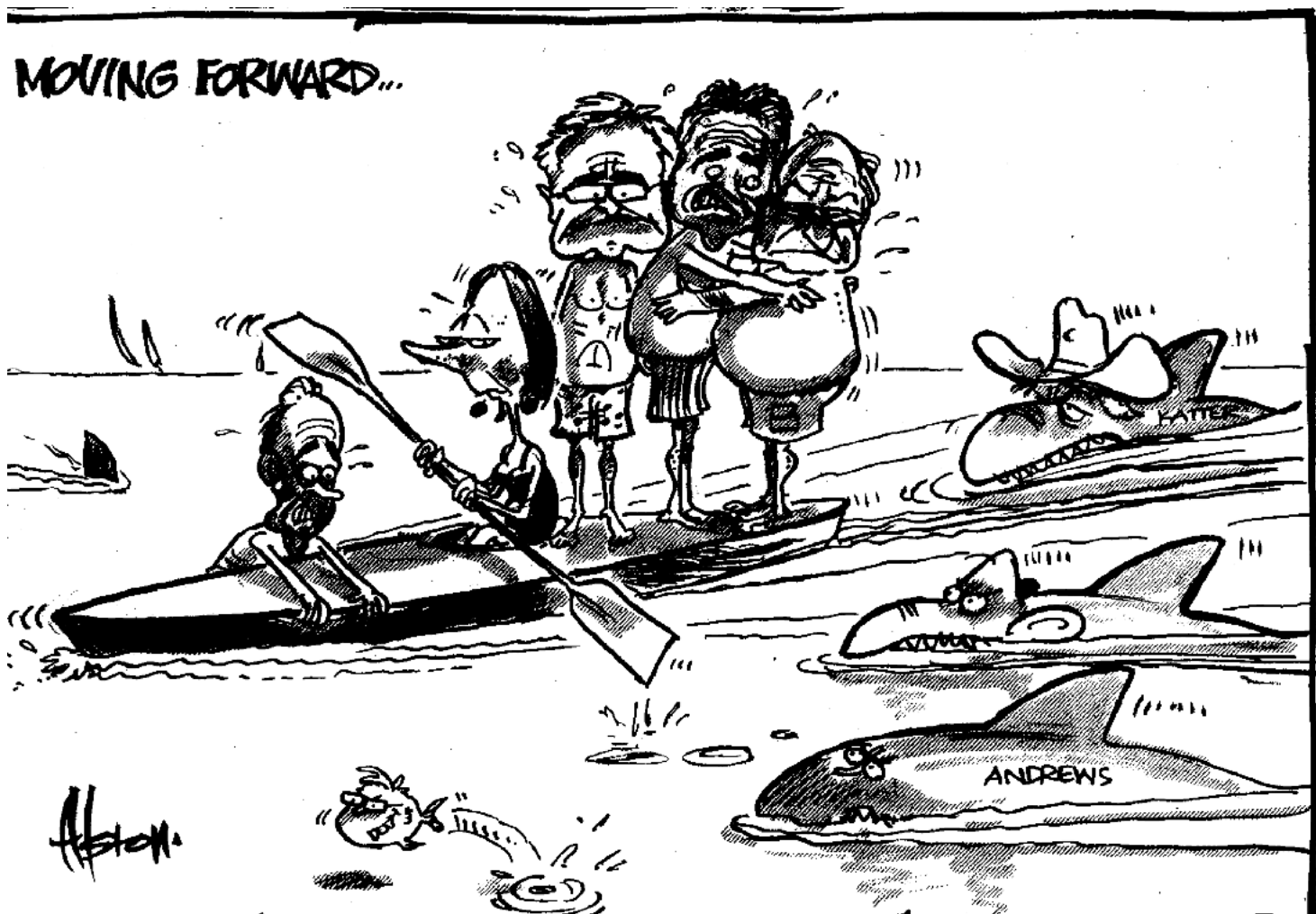
The Reserve Bank of Australia has signalled it is more likely to resume raising interest rates sooner rather than later after economic growth surged to a three-year high and as global financial markets stabilise. *The Fin* (SOURCE: *WA Business News*, Today's Business Headlines, 8.9.10)

Haggling begins on mining tax

The Federal Government's partners are positioning themselves in the debate over the mining tax with Tony Windsor pushing for it to be discussed at the tax summit and the Greens seeking to beef it up.

Greens leader Bob Brown said the party still preferred the first form of the mining tax, the 40 per cent impost on miners instead of the new 30 per cent proposal, but realised moves to change it would not succeed. The party would leave the timetable for the minerals resource rent tax to government and would work with Treasurer Wayne Swan on the issue, he said. "I'm simply being pragmatic here, we do not have the numbers," he told reporters in Canberra.

Senator Brown welcomed the idea of a tax summit, secured by the rural independents, to take another look at proposals from the Henry review that were shelved. Mr Windsor wants the minerals resource rent tax to be discussed at a tax summit next year, which was one of Labor's many offerings to win the independents over. Treasurer Wayne Swan said the tax would not be on the summit's agenda because the government was in the process of designing the measure and preparing legislation for parliamentary approval. (SOURCE/EXTRACT: *WA Business News*, Daily Business Alert, 8.9.10)



(SOURCE: *TheWEST Australian*, 9.9.10)



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