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### MEDIA RELEASE

20 September 2011

#### **Green as clueless as Labor on small business**

If the Greens genuinely want to do something to help small business, they would ditch the carbon tax that is so damaging to consumer confidence, small business viability and employment prospects.

Survey after survey point to the enormous dampening effect the proposed Labor-Greens carbon tax and a lack of confidence in the Gillard-Brown ‘alliance’ Government is having on small business profitability and future prospects.

Small businesses and family enterprises are facing difficult trading conditions and the Government and Greens seem intent on making a tough time even worse.

If Bob Brown and Julie Gillard were listening to small business and genuinely want to help ‘the engine room of the economy’ they would ditch their ill-conceived carbon dioxide tax.

The Labor-Greens carbon tax will cascade through supply chains and compounds at each stage.

These cost increases and lack of any compensation will particularly harm smaller businesses.

Higher energy costs, longer supply chains and limited market power to push back on input cost increases will make difficult business conditions even worse.

Despite a chorus of concern from small businesses and family enterprises, the Government has failed to do any small enterprise-level or sector analysis on the impact of the carbon tax.

Instead, the Government attacks those industry associations that have done some practical research that shows that the Government’s claims of a modest impact simply don’t stack up.

Only the Coalition has a comprehensive action plan to support entrepreneurial activity and small business that even the Prime Minister’s own department assessed “*could provide an important boost to productivity*” (Source: Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet ‘Blue Book’, 2010).

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