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MEDIA RELEASE

24 May 2011

Labor's 'policy theft' strikes again in a matter of days

In what can be only described as 'policy theft' the Gillard government has, for the second time in a matter of days, blatantly stolen Coalition policy and tried to pass it off as its own.

Last week Labor simply lifted and re-badged the Coalition's commitment to create a Small Business and Family Enterprise Ombudsman.

This week Labor plays catch-up on the urgent need to reduce red tape after the Coalition announced it will in government reduce the costs and regulatory burden to business by at least \$1 billion every year.

Senator Nick Sherry in a press release today stated, *'The Gillard government recognises ongoing regulatory reform is a key driver of productivity growth and ensuring our economy remains strong and continues to create jobs'*.

If so, how can Senator Sherry explain the fact that over 12,000 regulations have been introduced and only 58 repealed since the election of Labor, in a stunning failure to deliver its 'one in-one out' promise .

While the Coalition provides a guarantee to provide regulatory relief to businesses by at least \$1 billion every year if elected, Labor in its usual way commissions a study into what it might do, without providing any concrete commitment that it will actually in fact do anything.

Today's announcement is a clear admission of Labor's failure to reduce red-tape and a desperate 'SOS' to the Productivity Commission to come up with something to match the Coalition plan.

From this announcement it is evident the Gillard government is out of ideas and has no clue how to cut the regulatory burden on our businesses.

It is bad enough that Labor again steals policy from the Coalition for the second time in days, but then it out sources the work required by requesting submissions.

Only the Coalition is determined to ensure that government makes it easier, not harder, for small businesses and family enterprises to prosper, grow and provide opportunities.

After more than three years of Labor, small business is drowning in red tape and struggling.

The Coalition has a comprehensive small business policy that shows it listens to small business concerns and has a clear action plan to support 'the engine room of the Australian economy'.

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