



THE HON BRUCE BILLSON MP

Shadow Minister for Small Business,
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Federal Member for Dunkley

MEDIA RELEASE

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Rob Oakeshott on small business where have you been?

At his National Press Club address today sponsored by Get Up, Rob Oakeshott shocked many by speaking about the plight of small business and the regulatory burden that is growing and shows no signs of abating under Labor.

At today's address Mr Oakeshott said;

Several factors over the past six months have really whacked the small business sector around the head and this Parliament will be a small business friend and help with these compliance challenges as we challenge small business with important reforms, such as paid parental leave and a carbon market.

It is encouraging that Mr Oakeshott seems to be concerned about the burgeoning small business regulatory burden this week when it did not seem to matter to him last week.

Last week Mr Oakeshott voted against the Coalition's Private Member's Bill that would have relieved small business of the burden of being the 'pay clerk' for the government's paid parental scheme from July 1.

Had Mr Oakeshott genuinely shared the legitimate concerns of the Coalition and small business community about this pointless and unjustified new regulatory impost the Gillard Government is imposing on small business, he could have 'walked the deregulation talk' and voted in support of the practical and commonsense initiative. Instead, he sided with Labor to increase red-tape on small business.

Perhaps local community and small business reaction to Mr Oakeshott's decision to vote against the Coalition's Bill to reduce the regulatory burden in a practical and meaningful way has prompted his statements today at the National Press Club.

Labor's carbon tax will make very difficult trading condition even worse for small business who have been left out of any conversation about compensation despite clear warnings about how this compounding tax will damage small business viability and employment.

I have been making the small business concerns about Labor's carbon tax well known and pleased that this parliamentary advocacy has not passed Mr Oakeshott by.

The Coalition is happy to work with Mr Oakeshott to achieve meaningful reductions in the regulatory burden small businesses face, but he'll need to show that he is fair dinkum when the voting counts - not just when cameras are on.

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