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MEDIA RELEASE

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Powerful shoppies union silent on carbon tax impact on retail

Australia's largest union that roars when Labor leaders are being chosen has not uttered a peep about the damaging impact of the Gillard Government's carbon tax on its vulnerable members.

With consumer and business confidence at rock bottom and evidence mounting that the further economic shock of the carbon tax will cost retail jobs and damage business viability, 'axe the carbon tax' should be the policy of the Shop, Distributive and Allied Employees Union (SDA).

The 'Shoppies' and their national secretary Joe de Bruyn, exercise considerable influence within Labor but simply stand back and watch the damage being inflicted on those they are supposed to represent by the Prime Minister and Gillard Government they installed.

Instead of speaking about the damaging impact of the carbon tax on their members, the SDA has no published position on the carbon tax.

The SDA leadership seems to prefer to use its powerful influence in Labor circles by throwing its weight around on the future of SA Premier Mike Rann and the Gillard Government's attitude to same sex marriage.

For a union claimed to be so powerful that when it speaks it can change Prime Ministers and Premiers, it is extraordinary how willing the SDA is to sell out its own members by remaining silent on the impact of the Government's carbon tax.

The Australia Retailers Association's (ARA) most recent survey is the latest in a series of economic surveys to confirm confidence in the retail and small business sector continues to plummet because of Julia Gillard's and Bob Brown's carbon tax.

The survey found 83 per cent of retailers are expecting consumers to spend less as a result of Labor's carbon tax, with a further 85 per cent of respondents believing the carbon tax will have a negative impact on business profitability.

The Shoppies union and Gillard Labor Government have deliberately chosen to ignore the harm its carbon tax will cause small business retailers, leaving this key component of the engine room of the Australian economy to fend for itself.

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