



THE HON BRUCE BILLSON MP

Shadow Minister for Small Business,
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Federal Member for Dunkley

MEDIA RELEASE

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World Bank report confirms Labor's push to smother small business in red tape

The World Bank rankings on business regulation burdens reinforce the 'field evidence' the Coalition hears from small business and family enterprises everyday according to Shadow Minister for Small Business Bruce Billson.

Mr Billson said Australia slipped three places in the Doing Business 2012 rankings because of the Rudd and Gillard Labor Governments' introduction of 220 new regulations for every one that they have removed.

"The World Bank analysis shows that Australia has gone backwards on every measure except 'dealing with construction permits' where Australia has gone from 43rd to 42nd – hardly spectacular," Mr Billson said.

"Successive governments have made the steps needed to get ready to do business much more straight-forward, but once you get started and are doing business, the regulatory burden hits you and has been getting progressively worse.

"That's why the Coalition will reduce the cost of business regulation by \$1 billion and why we continue to partner with small business to identify practical and priority areas for red-tape reduction.

"Even in terms of 'getting credit' there has been no improvement despite Australia's strong banking system. We languish amongst a cluster of economies that include Rwanda, Zambia, Guatemala and the Kyrgyz Republic. Surely we can do better than that."

Mr Billson said that owning your own business was the second great Australian dream behind owning your own home but sadly the dream was fading because of the hurdles put in place by Labor.

"Putting in place the world's harshest carbon tax has dented the confidence of business in Australia," Mr Billson said.

"Having no direct compensation for small business in Labor's carbon tax plan just shows the scant regard the Government has for small business.

"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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