



Media Release

Senator Alan Eggleston

Liberal Senator for Western Australia

A sign of things to come from the Gillard government

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Lack of consultation, withholding of information, back-flips and green appeasement have been hallmarks of Gillard's Labor Government since their return to power, according to Western Australian Senator Alan Eggleston.

In the past week alone, Prime Minister Gillard made a significant announcement regarding the housing arrangements for asylum seekers affecting several States, but failed to inform the Premiers of both WA and SA in a move that has angered both leaders.

"Before the recent federal election, Prime Minister Gillard claimed the party had 'lost its way' and inadequate consultation processes was one of the reasons given for the subsequent knifing of former Prime Minister Kevin Rudd," said Senator Eggleston.

"Only months later we witness a Labor Party playing the same tricks, making decisions on behalf of all without consultation – in fact the only time the new proposal on housing asylum seekers was put to one the Premiers was one hour before the announcement was made to the media.

"Is this evidence of a consultative, transparent government?" Senator Eggleston asked.

With Supplementary Budget Estimates underway in the Senate this week in Canberra, interesting facts have emerged regarding the ongoing secrecy and condescending nature of the Gillard government.

A spokesman for Parliamentary Secretary Mark Dreyfus said it would be "inappropriate" to release figures surrounding the number of homes affected by the failed home insulation scheme; saying to do so would be 'taken out of context' by the public and cause unnecessary fear.

"This position clearly tells the Australian people they have no right to know how their money is being spent, or more correctly in this case – wasted," said Senator Eggleston.

"There is certainly something here that would be damaging to the Labor government or they would not be reluctant to release such information.

"When the government refuses to tell the Australian people what the rollout of the Tasmanian trial of the NBN has cost, for fear of the figures also being 'taken out of context', one can be forgiven for being sceptical as to the transparency that the new Prime Minister so readily advocates," said Senator Eggleston.

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