



Media Release

Senator Alan Eggleston

Liberal Senator for Western Australia

Rudd sets off to be Global leader – ignores interests of Australia

Thursday 16th April 2009

Coalition Senators have today recommended the Government go back to the drawing board and produce a carbon pollution reduction scheme which reflects the outcomes of this year's Copenhagen climate change meeting, and the best interests of Australia.

Deputy Chair of the Economics Committee and WA Liberal Senator Alan Eggleston said the costs, the weaknesses and the inappropriateness of Labor's Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme for Australia were revealed by Australian businesses during a number of recent hearings held across the country by the Economics Committee.

"Labor's Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme will cost local jobs, drive industry overseas, and destroy Australia's competitive advantage," Senator Eggleston said.

"Rudd's delusional presumption that the whole world will follow suit and adopt an emissions trading scheme ignores the reality that Australia's major trading partners including China, Japan and the US have no plans to commit to an emissions trading scheme in the foreseeable future," he said.

"Without a world scheme in place, the costs of implementing a scheme in Australia will be high, something Rudd fails to accept."

Senator Eggleston said Labor's scheme could potentially cost hundreds of thousands of jobs, enormous local wealth, and have an adverse effect on the environment.

"The Senate Economics Committee has heard from industry leaders that this scheme is destructive, irresponsible and ineffective legislation that will cost Australian jobs without reducing global carbon emissions,"

"Under the scheme, companies can purchase a forest in Indonesia to allow them to continue to pollute carbon emissions, effectively nullifying the purpose of the scheme."

In a dissenting report tabled by Coalition Senators today, Senator Eggleston said that while it is important to develop a process which establishes a price on carbon, the scheme proposed by Labor was deeply flawed, and didn't reflect the fact that Australia only produces 1.4% of the world's emissions

"The Committee's report, like the CRRS legislation itself, was rushed, and the Senates role was abused. Minor parties were denied adequate time to review the Committee's report and the reporting date was set to suit the personal convenience of the Chair,"

"Instead of trying to lead the world, Australia needs to be looking out for its own interests, and consider an alternative model that doesn't cost local jobs,"

Senator Eggleston said he was also concerned at the lack of information in the exposure draft about the regulations under which the scheme will operate.

"The Coalition is calling on Labor to reveal an exposure draft of the regulations to reveal the true extent of the CPRS and its cost on Australian businesses and jobs."

"The devil is in the detail."

Ends