

July, 2011

## Carbon tax whacks extra burden on Australians

The new financial year has begun with a flurry of activity as the Coalition spread the truth about Julia Gillard's latest toxic tax.

↑ **Electricity prices**  
 ↑ **Petrol prices**  
 ↑ **Grocery prices**

The Government had "lost its way", Ms Gillard said. Well, twelve months on it is clearer than ever that this Labor Government is just a bunch of lemons – and it is Australian families who are left with the bitter taste.



Even worse, the biggest lemon of all – Labor's new carbon tax – is still to come.

Western Australia has already been made the scapegoat for Labor's mining tax and an unfair GST share, now families will pay more for everything under Julia Gillard's carbon tax – the biggest and most punitive carbon tax in the world.

The Labor/Greens carbon tax will drive up prices and threaten jobs, while simultaneously forcing WA's mining, resources and manufacturing industries to consider offshore options.

A carbon tax means a 10% hike in electricity bills and a 9% percent hike in gas bills in the first year alone, and each year the price will go up and up and up.

We must not forget that phase two of this toxic package is an Emissions Trading Scheme in 2015. The ETS will directly affect the thriving agricultural and resources industries in the North West, costing many rural and regional jobs.

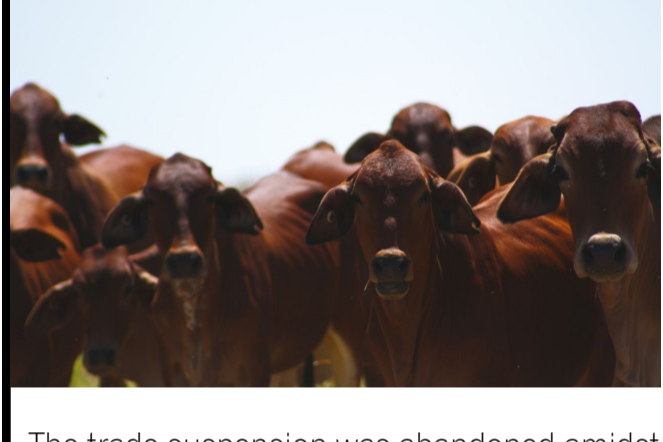
The Government is taking a huge economic gamble with the proposed ETS, which relies on the rest of the world to follow suit or else see Australia saddled with the highest carbon costs in the world.

The Minerals Council of Australia says the carbon tax package will compromise the competitive-ness of Australia's export and import competing sectors without environmental benefit, labelling it a mere "...exercise in revenue-churn futility, not a credible or effective climate change policy."

The Coalition's commitment to the Australian people is that we will do everything in our power to fight this toxic tax. The Coalition will oppose it in opposition and rescind it in government. There must be no carbon tax without a mandate.

The Coalition has a better way. We have a strong and effective policy to deal with climate change and meet our bipartisan target of reducing emissions by 5 per cent by 2020. We will spend about a billion dollars a year from savings in the budget to deliver more trees, better soil and smarter technology.

## Cattle industry in limbo



Australian cattle farmers have been driven to the brink of despair over the continuing diplomatic and trade crisis in Indonesia, yet Foreign Minister Kevin Rudd failed to take timely action on the crisis, heightening the insult to Indonesia.

Agriculture Minister Joe Ludwig made a panicked decision to halt live exports to the country more than a month ago, and lifting the ban is only a small step towards resurrecting a badly hurt and weakened industry.

The trade suspension was abandoned amidst mounting pressure from industry and everyday Australians, but repairing the damage with our closest trade partner and ally will be a long road ahead. The Gillard government has deeply offended our Indonesian neighbours by failing to meet and consult with them before imposing the blanket ban on cattle exports.

Unfortunately, Indonesia's treatment of animals has been portrayed to the world as cruel and malicious, another blanket assertion which certainly does not apply across the board.

While the huge losses will be hard to recover from, the Australian cattle industry remains committed to high standards of animal welfare and are now waiting for approval of Indonesian import permits and Australian export licences.

Fostering a strong relationship with Indonesia lies at the heart of our nation's security in terms of trade and border control, which was totally disregarded by a brash and avoidable decision to ban all live exports.

While the ALP continues to pander to the Greens every whim, the Coalition remains committed to helping Indonesian abattoirs adhere to international animal welfare standards, which will be strictly monitored by the Australian industry.

## WA fuelling China's growth

It is a fitting tribute to Western Australia's role as a key resources market to China that we were chosen to host the first Boao Forum for Asia held outside China. Perth City Cr Sandra Liu strongly advocated for the event to come to WA, and it seems our world-class resources state won them over.

The "Energy, Resources & Sustainable Development" Conference was held in Perth this week, boasting a number of prestigious presenters including Kerry Stokes, Andrew Forrest and former Chinese ambassador to Australia, Zhou Wenzhong.



WA Premier Colin Barnett spoke of the State's impressive mining capabilities, and of our good fortune to hold a great wealth of resources in such close proximity to Asia.

WA is on track to become the world's largest or second-largest producer of liquefied natural gas (LNG) by 2020 according to Barnett, who added that WA accounted for 44 per cent of Australia's exports and 70 per cent of the nation's exports to China.

In the wake of the Gillard Government's carbon tax campaign, Kerry Stokes echoed the sentiments felt by many West Australians, that it could affect our competitive edge in the resources industry.

"As important as we are to China, China does have other choices. Australia has none," he told the conference.

"We must make sure we don't encourage China to go to Africa. We don't want them going to South America. We don't want them to have a reason to go anywhere but Australia."

His comments highlight the fact that the Gillard Government needs to be cautious not to undermine the existing stable relationship between Australian miners and their Chinese customers.

## WA's new Governor Malcolm McCusker



It was my pleasure to attend an official ceremony swearing in respected Perth barrister Malcolm McCusker as governor of Western Australia.

Mr McCusker has enjoyed a successful career as a Queens Council, representing many high profile cases, including the overturned murder conviction of Andrew Mallard. Through the McCusker Charitable Foundation, he has become recognised for his support of research into Alzheimer's disease and has already undertaken to donate a portion of his salary to charity.

I took the opportunity to welcome Mr McCusker in his new position and am certain that his wealth of experience and contribution to WA will be invaluable.

There are only three certainties under this government – it always taxes, it always wastes and it always deceives. After batts, school halls, border and live cattle bungles, no-one can have any real confidence this government will get anything right.

I have already met with many West Australians worried about the latest Labor lemon, and would like to hear how the carbon tax will affect your family, your business or your job. Please send me an email, letter or call my office.

Kind regards,

*Alan Eggleston*

**Dr Alan Eggleston**  
**Senator for Western Australia**  
**Chair of the Senate Economics References Committee**