



Media Release

Senator Alan Eggleston

Liberal Senator for Western Australia

Green jobs to come at a price - Eggleston

3rd June 2009

The Rudd Government needs to come clean on the real impact of the CPRS after Treasury Secretary Dr Ken Henry today revealed job losses in the mining industry would be inevitable.

Western Australian Liberal Senator and Deputy Chair of the Economics Committee Alan Eggleston asked the question of Treasury officials during an estimates hearing in Canberra this morning.

“Dr Henry has confirmed what the Rudd Government has been running from since they introduced this scheme; that it will create significant job losses, particularly in the resources sector,” Senator Eggleston said.

The Senator said the questioning also revealed that Labor’s so called compensatory “green jobs” could only be achieved if real wages were lowered.

During the hearings, Treasury officials agreed with the views of Dr Fisher of Concept Economics, who also gave evidence at the CPRS amendments hearings, that Treasury modelling was based on the presumption that real wages would have to be lowered to maintain everybody in a job under so called “model closure” presumptions.

“If jobs are lost, then the same number of jobs can only be created elsewhere if there is a relative lowering of real wages,” Senator Eggleston said.

“Labor has been running from this reality and has refused to publicly declare that this would be the case.”

“If Labor gets their way, Australians will have to accept a lower standard of living under the Rudd CPRS.”

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