



# Media Release

## Senator Alan Eggleston

### Liberal Senator for Western Australia

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### Out of sight, out of mind

16 December 2010

The Labor Government's decision to redact large sections of information from Government departments 'red books', including information relating to WA, is a symbolic reflection of the secrecy and ambiguity that has come to define the Gillard government, says Western Australian Senator Alan Eggleston.

"Sections relating to the NBN, schools policy, health reform and issues related to Western Australia have been completely blanked out – it is highly improbable that this material included confidential information, rather it is more likely that it was heavily edited to avoid warranted scrutiny of their hellish political year," said Senator Eggleston.

"The decision to release the other briefings with entire sections missing indicates that there has been a concerted effort to hide embarrassing failures and policy disasters which judging by this Government's performance, is likely to be voluminous," said the Senator.

Senator Eggleston noted that the way this Government dispenses information is more indicative of an authoritarian regime, rather than an open democracy.

In just the past six months, the Gillard-led Labor Government has refused to release information relating to the NBN, the home insulation debacle, the assumptions underpinning the MRRT or even the shady deal that was struck with the Greens.

While Prime Minister Gillard was quick to assure Australians in September that her Government would operate transparently, Senator Eggleston said that since taking power Gillard has presided over an even more secretive, cautious regime where information is as scarce as sound leadership.

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