



Media Release

Senator Mathias Cormann

CHAIR OF THE FUEL & ENERGY SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE

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ITS ABOUT JOBS, JOBS, JOBS SENATOR CONROY!

The Government today refused to rule out further job losses as a result of Labor's flawed Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme.

Asked to guarantee that no further Australian jobs would be lost as a result of Labor's CPRS, all Senator Conroy was eventually prepared to say was that *"the premise of the question being put by those opposite is completely flawed. That is why answering a question as irrelevant"*. (sic)

His answer came after being confronted with calls from AWU National Secretary Paul Howes for additional Treasury modelling of the impact of the proposed CPRS on the economy.

In evidence before the Senate Fuel and Energy Committee Mr Howes said yesterday that:

- *"In December when the white paper came out, I thought the balance was right. To be honest, the situation I am confronting is vastly different now to what it was"*;
- *"there needs to be additional Treasury modelling (on the impact of the proposed CPRS);*
- *"we were not overjoyed with the Treasury modelling"*; and that
- *"the reality is that modelling was done previously and we are living in a whole different world now"*.

Mr Howes expressed serious concerns about the impact of the global economic downturn on a range of sectors in our economy:

"We are now confronting a crisis in the steel sector and in the aluminium sector, and it is a crisis that in our thinking is unprecedented. As long as we have been making steel here in Australia, since 1921, we have never had a situation as bad"

"This comes after a peer review of the Treasury modelling concluded that the Treasury assumptions used meant that the impact of the proposed ETS on the economy had been seriously underestimated," Senator Cormann said.

"It is time the Government stopped hiding behind political rhetoric, accusing any critic of its CPRS design as being a climate change sceptic or a non-believer," Senator Cormann said.

"Responsible people on all sides of politics are concerned about the additional pressure a badly designed CPRS would put on our economy and on jobs," Senator Cormann said.

"Particularly at this time, the Government should listen to calls from a very diverse range of responsible people and commit to additional Treasury modelling, and this time based on more realistic assumptions," he said.

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