



Media Release

Senator Mathias Cormann
Shadow Assistant Treasurer
Shadow Minister for Financial Services
and Superannuation

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Mining Tax Secrecy proves – Operation Sunlight in tatters

Julia Gillard's claim of a new era of openness and transparency is in absolute tatters today.

The Gillard government last night refused to release basic but important information about its mining tax revenue estimates.

How did the Gillard government come up with its \$10.5 billion mining tax revenue estimate?

Julia Gillard and Wayne Swan clearly don't want people to know.

They continue to bend over backwards to avoid releasing any information about the assumptions they used to come up with their \$10.5 billion mining tax revenue estimate.

We are talking about basic assumptions for things like commodity prices, production volumes and exchange rates.

These are assumptions that are published by the State government in Western Australia in their budget papers as a matter of course. Yet Julia Gillard treats them like a State secret.

Clearly the government has something to hide. There is now very serious doubt about the veracity of the government's mining tax revenue estimates.

Because part of the information for the mining tax revenue assumptions was provided by the big three, the Gillard government has now claimed 'commercial-in-confidence' as the reason for not releasing any of it.

So the three big mining companies in on the deal with the government are allowed to know what the government's mining tax revenue assumptions are.

But the Parliament, the people of Australia and the competitors of the big three are not? How is that right and proper? And how does that fit with the 'new paradigm' and the new era of openness and transparency we were promised by Julia Gillard herself after she scraped back in as Prime Minister?

The Coalition will use every available parliamentary process in the weeks and months ahead to force the curtains open and let the sunlight in on the government's secret mining tax revenue assumptions.

MEDIA CONTACT:

Senator Cormann

0411 874 546