



Media Release

Senator Mathias Cormann

Shadow Assistant Treasurer

Shadow Minister for Financial Services and Superannuation

10/3009/AC

30 September 2010

Senate orders 'Operation Sunlight' for Mining Tax Info

The Gillard government has been ordered by the Senate to release detailed information about its \$10.5 billion mining tax which it has so far tried to keep secret.

"There has been much talk from the government about new paradigms and a supposed commitment to more openness and transparency," Shadow Assistant Treasurer Mathias Cormann said.

"Yet for the past three months Julia Gillard has bent over backwards to avoid releasing basic but important information about the impact of its proposed new mining tax," he said.

The Senate today ordered the government to finally release all that information by this afternoon.

"Julia Gillard conducted negotiations about her new mining tax in secret and exclusively with the three largest mining companies," Senator Cormann said.

"She deliberately excluded 99% of the mining industry from those negotiations.

"Her massive new tax on mining has significant implications for the budget, the economy, jobs, investment in the mining industry and of course for States like Western Australia and Queensland.

"Serious questions have been raised about the credibility of her \$10.5 billion revenue estimate.

"Is that why Julia Gillard has consistently refused to release information which would allow proper scrutiny of her new tax? What has she got to hide?"

Today the Senate ordered the government to release the commodity price, production volume and exchange rate assumptions it has used to estimate the revenue from the new mining tax.

"This is information which the State government in Western Australia publishes as a matter of course in its budget papers, yet the secretive Gillard government is treating it like a State secret.

The Senate also ordered the release of information exchanged between the Gillard government and the three big mining companies in the course of the negotiations on the new tax.

"The government gave those companies a clear competitive advantage. The least they should do is release all the information exchanged in the course of those negotiations," Senator Cormann said.

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