



Media Release

Senator Mathias Cormann

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LABOR WANTS MORE TAXES NOT TAX REFORM

Labor never intended to keep its promise to hold a Tax Summit by 30 June 2011 Shadow Assistant Treasurer Mathias Cormann said.

"We will see what happens in October and how many other ad hoc tax grabs Labor will try and push through the Parliament between now and then," he said.

"The Gillard government cannot be trusted to deliver genuine tax reform," he said.

"They're not interested in reform to deliver lower, fairer and simpler taxes.

"All Labor is interested in is their next multi billion dollar ad hoc tax grab and the politics of how to get away with it.

"In its first three budgets Labor increased taxes by more than \$40 billion as well as taking us more than \$90 billion into debt.

"Right now we're debating Labor's flood tax, their student tax, their mining tax, the carbon tax and soon Labor's proposal to increase taxes on LPG.

"Who knows what other ad hoc tax grabs Labor has in store for us in their next budget.

"Julia Gillard and Wayne Swan just keep imposing one new ad hoc tax grab after the other.

"Back in 2008 Labor promised root and branch reform of our tax system to deliver fairer and simpler taxes through the Henry Tax Review.

"Instead all we got out of that is a multi billion dollar new tax on mining, which is more complex, less fair and which was developed through a bad and highly inappropriate process.

"It is extraordinary that the two biggest new Labor Party taxes, the mining tax and the carbon tax, have both been excluded from proper consideration by the Tax Summit.

"The Tax Summit imposed on Julia Gillard and Wayne Swan by the Independents was supposed to fix Labor's failure to deliver on tax reform by setting up an open, transparent and inclusive reform process.

"Australia needs a fair dinkum Tax Summit. We need it now. We need it before Labor has any more time to come up with yet another ad hoc tax grab harming our economy and pushing up our cost of living.

"The Independents who obtained this promise from the government should have worked with the Coalition to force them to keep it instead of letting Labor off the hook," Senator Cormann said.

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