



Media Release

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WA Unions must join fight against carbon tax

WA unions must stand up for jobs in Western Australia and join the fight against Labor's job destroying carbon tax.

"AWU State Secretary Stephen Price and CFMEU State Secretary Kevin Reynolds in particular should add their voices to the calls from their national and interstate colleagues questioning Labor's Carbon Tax and its impact on workers around Australia," Shadow Assistant Treasurer Mathias Cormann said.

"They must back their workers facing job losses in WA from Julia Gillard's toxic carbon tax," he said.

"AWU National Secretary Paul Howes, AWU South Australian State Secretary Wayne Hanson and other union leaders across Australia have courageously broken ranks with the Gillard Labor Government and drawn attention to the impact it will have on jobs.

"WA union leaders must join them in standing up for Western Australian jobs in Kwinana, the Pilbara and across all other parts of Western Australia.

WA jobs are under attack from a number of Labor taxes, in particular the mining tax and the carbon tax.

"The carbon tax will push up the cost of everything, it will make us less competitive internationally and cost jobs - all this without helping to reduce global emissions.

Putting a price on carbon in Australia in the absence of an appropriately comprehensive global agreement will make overseas polluters more competitive than business in Australia and actually lead to increased global emissions.

"It doesn't make sense environmentally and it doesn't make sense economically.

"In WA the impact of the carbon tax will come on top of the massive Gillard mining tax, which according to Treasury will raise more than 80 per cent of its revenue from WA over the current budget estimates.

"This would be a double blow to economic growth, jobs and prosperity in Western Australia and must be stopped.

"If union leaders in Western Australia really care about their members' interests they can't stay silent when their colleagues in other parts of Australia are speaking out.

"I call on Mr Price and Mr Reynolds to come out today and tell Western Australians what their assessment is of the carbon tax and the impact it will have on jobs.

"Specifically, they must tell workers across WA whether they agree with Paul Howes that the carbon tax should be opposed if it causes one single job to be lost," Senator Cormann said.

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