



Media Release

Senator Mathias Cormann

Shadow Assistant Treasurer

Chair of Senate Carbon Tax Inquiry

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Carbon tax will hurt Tasmanian manufacturing

Manufacturing businesses across Tasmania will be worse off under the Labor-Green carbon tax Shadow Assistant Treasurer Mathias Cormann said on a visit to Rio Tinto Alcan in Bell Bay today.

"The Labor-Green carbon tax will push up the cost of everything, it will make us less competitive internationally, cost jobs, hurt small and medium sized business and all that without doing anything to help reduce global emissions," he said.

Visiting Bell Bay with Tasmanian Liberal Senators Eric Abetz, Richard Colbeck and David Bushby he pointed out that the carbon tax would make overseas polluters more competitive than even the most environmentally efficient equivalent business in Australia.

"If the carbon tax is passed by the Federal Parliament it will help big emitters in places like China take market share from businesses like Rio Tinto here in Bell Bay.

"Labor's compensation package will not stop businesses from becoming less competitive than bigger emitters overseas.

"Labor wants to hurt businesses they call the big polluters with their carbon tax. That's what the carbon tax is all about.

"So, when Labor Senator Nick Sherry talks about the carbon tax sending a price signal to businesses like Rio Tinto what he is really saying is that they will face a cost their overseas competitors won't.

"To make overseas polluters more competitive than even the most environmentally efficient equivalent business in Tasmania is not effective action on climate change; it is an irresponsible act of economic self-harm.

"When Julia Gillard talks about the 'big polluters' she is talking about the big energy generators and the big employers across Australia who play a significant part in our economic prosperity.

"Every single Labor Member and Senator here in Tasmania campaigned in support of Julia Gillard's promise that there would be no carbon tax under a government she leads.

"Now Labor wants us to have a carbon tax and they're not prepared to listen to the genuine and legitimate concerns of hard working families and businesses across Tasmania.

"Labor should not be pressing ahead with this carbon tax until people across Tasmania and across Australia have had an opportunity to have their say on it at a general election.

"It is time the local Labor Member stood up for the best interests of hard working families and businesses in Bass instead of just pushing the Canberra line," Senator Cormann said.

MEDIA CONTACT:

Senator Cormann

0411 874 546