



# Media Release

## Senator Mathias Cormann

### *Shadow Assistant Treasurer*

### *Chair of the Senate Carbon Tax Inquiry*

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#### **Carbon tax will hurt Western Australian manufacturing**

Manufacturing businesses across Western Australia will be worse off under the Labor-Green carbon tax Shadow Assistant Treasurer Mathias Cormann said on a visit to the Pacific Industrial Company on the Kwinana industrial strip.

"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 the Pacific Industrial Company with Senator Michaelia Cash and local Liberal representative Donna Gordin, he pointed out that the carbon tax would make overseas polluters more competitive than even the most environmentally efficient equivalent business in Australia.

"A carbon tax in Australia not faced by our trade competitors will help big emitters in places like China take market share from businesses like the Pacific Industrial Company.

"That's just shifting emissions and jobs overseas not reducing global emissions.

"The carbon tax will increase the cost of electricity by about 10 % and the cost of gas by about 9%. This is just for starters because the carbon tax will continue to go up and up and up.

"The negative impact of these increases in power and gas will be heavily felt across the Kwinana industrial area which employs more than 5,000 workers directly and 26,000 indirectly, contributing over \$16 billion to the local economy.

"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.

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

"Every single Labor Member and Senator in WA 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 Western Australia.

"Labor should not be pressing ahead with this carbon tax until people across Western Australia 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 Brand instead of just pushing the Canberra line," Senator Cormann said.

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