



Media Release

Senator Mathias Cormann

Chair of Senate Carbon Tax Inquiry

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Secrecy and Spin cannot hide carbon tax flaws

Release of final Senate Carbon Tax Inquiry Report

The Gillard government has run out of excuses on why it will not release all of the economic modelling of the carbon tax so it can be subjected to proper independent scrutiny.

"There are no legal or commercial barriers to its release," Committee Chair Mathias Cormann said.

A Senate Inquiry into the carbon tax has found that both the Productivity Commission and ABARES have released the same economic models and underlying information the government has used for its carbon tax modelling for public scrutiny in the past.

"The government has not given us any valid reason why it refuses to follow that practice.

"The Senate Scrutiny of New Taxes Committee has consistently recommended that the government release all of its modelling before the Senate is asked to vote on the carbon tax.

"There should be no legislation before proper investigation – in particular of the government's contested claims about the impact of the carbon tax on the cost of living and the economy.

"If a car salesman refused you a test drive or didn't let you look under the hood you would walk off. The Gillard government is not letting the Australian people look under the hood of its carbon tax.

"What has the government got to hide?"

"Australians are being denied a vote on the carbon tax and now the government is denying them their right to even look into the basis for the government's assertions about the cost of its carbon tax.

"We have to remember that even under the government's own contested global action assumptions Labor's carbon tax is due to cost the Australian economy \$1 trillion over the next 40 years.

"A tax with a \$ 1 trillion impact on our economy deserves greater scrutiny than it has got so far.

"The government's failure to follow best practice on modelling scrutiny is damaging the good name of Treasury." Senator Cormann said.

"There is no doubt of the hard work and diligence of the Treasury officials who have faithfully modelled the assumptions the government has set for them. However, their work is being tarnished by a government that is putting its political interests above the good standing of Australia's central economic agencies," he said.

"It is time for Wayne Swan and Greg Combet to come clean on the impact of the Clean Energy Bills. Release all of the modelling now," Senator Cormann said.

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