



Media Release

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Chair – Senate Mining Tax Inquiry

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GOVERNMENT MUST RELEASE MINING TAX DETAIL

Gillard government secrecy in relation to its mining tax revenue assumptions and the cost of all the related measures must end, Shadow Assistant Treasurer Mathias Cormann has said.

The government has ignored successive orders of the Senate since 30 September 2010, demanding that the government release all of its relevant mining tax revenue assumptions.

The government's mining tax revenue estimates clearly don't stand up to public scrutiny. No doubt that's why they continue to hide their mining tax revenue assumptions.

State governments with revenue which is sensitive to changes in resources commodity prices and production volumes for example publish that information as a matter of course in their budget papers.

Last week the Senate also demanded that the government release the budget costs of all of the measures attached to the mining tax over the forward estimates.

Again, the government has failed to provide the information. The Senate's deadline passed yesterday.

The government must immediately release all the information demanded by the Senate about mining tax revenue assumptions and the budget cost of related measures.

The Parliament should refuse to even consider the MRRT legislation until the government has fully complied with all of its requests for mining tax related information.

The Prime Minister negotiated the design of the MRRT exclusively and in secret with three global mining companies having excluded all of their local competitors from the process.

She also excluded State and Territory governments and even Federal Treasury and her own Department from those negotiations.

The Gillard mining tax is a bad tax which came out of a highly dodgy process. It gives three large global mining companies an unfair competitive advantage.

It makes the budget hostage to decisions about royalty arrangements by State governments, which have never been party to the Gillard mining tax deal.

Incredibly the mining tax package also leaves the budget worse off over time. From 2013/14 onwards the cost of the measures the government has attached to the mining tax is higher than the revenue it is expected to collect.

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