



# Media Release

## Senator Mathias Cormann

### *Shadow Assistant Treasurer*

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### **Swan caught out on GST grab**

Wayne Swan is so desperate to get his hands on \$50 billion of State GST that he can't be bothered doing the most basic homework first.

"He can't even be bothered to get the States and Territories to sign up to his dodgy deal," Shadow Assistant Treasurer Mathias Cormann said.

"This is a bad financial deal for the States and Territories," he said.

"The GST was designed to provide an efficient growth revenue to the States and Territories.

"John Howard in 1999 and Kevin Rudd again in 2008 both signed agreements with the States and Territories that GST arrangements would not be changed without unanimous agreement.

"Wayne Swan was told by his own Department that he needed to secure unanimous agreement before he could proceed with his proposed GST clawback.

"The reality is that he doesn't have unanimous agreement.

"In fact not one single State has signed on the dotted line.

"Western Australia is vocally opposed and alternative governments in Victoria and New South Wales don't want to hand over their GST revenue either.

"That's why Wayne Swan is in a rush to push this through before elections in those States.

"After more than \$40 billion in new or increased taxes, \$94 billion in new net debt, the Gillard government now wants to get hold of \$50 billion worth of GST at the expense of the States and Territories.

"This has nothing to do with health reform. It is all to do with a government desperate for more cash," Senator Cormann said.

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