



MEDIA RELEASE

Senator the Hon Penny Wong

Minister for Climate Change and Water

PW 21/10

25 January 2010

8 DAYS TO GO AND NO WORD ON HOW MR ABBOTT WILL FUND HIS POLICY

Tony Abbott now has 8 days to release a detailed and fully costed alternative climate change policy.

If Mr Abbott cannot release a fully costed policy that outlines a clear pathway to reach the bipartisan emissions cuts he has committed to, it will show he cannot be trusted on climate change.

This morning on 4QR radio, Mr Abbott guaranteed that his climate change policy would not involve any new taxes.

KING: When are you going to release your policy on how you would reduce emissions without a tax?

ABBOTT: Before Parliament comes back.

KING: And Parliament's back in a couple of weeks, isn't it?

ABBOTT: Tuesday week is the first parliamentary sitting day.

KING: But you, when I asked you about the Henry tax review, you say it's very difficult to bring in reform and pay for everything without increasing taxes. Will you, under circumstances, support a tax increase?

ABBOTT: Well, no, the Coalition is against new taxes.

The Government is proposing to tackle climate change by making polluters pay through the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme – the cheapest and most effective way to reduce carbon pollution.

Mr Abbott has already made clear that he refuses to make polluters pay.

To fund his policy, Mr Abbott must explain what spending measures he will cut or what the impact will be on debt and deficit.

If Mr Abbott can't explain how he can tackle climate change, then it will be further proof that you can't trust Mr Abbott on climate change, and you can't trust him on the economy.