



# MEDIA RELEASE

**Senator the Hon Penny Wong**

*Minister for Climate Change and Water*

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PW 22/10

26 January 2010

## **7 DAYS TO GO AND NOW MR ABBOTT PROMISING A COST-FREE POLICY**

Tony Abbott now has 7 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 confirm he cannot be trusted on climate change.

Today, Mr Abbott guaranteed at a doorstep interview that his climate change policy would not involve any new taxes or any new charges.

*ABBOTT: So, I can absolutely guarantee that our policy won't involve a new tax or a new charge.*

This is despite the fact that Mr Abbott himself has conceded several times that there is no cost-free way to tackle climate change.

*UHLMANN: But it won't be cost free.*

*ABBOTT: Of course it won't be cost free but nevertheless there is a lot that you can do to reduce emission and improve the environment that will fund itself.*

*UHLMANN: So it won't be a great big tax, it might be a medium sized tax or perhaps a tax that you can't put a number on?*

*ABBOTT: Well what we will do is fund sensible action, direct action on the environment from the budget in the ordinary way.*

- 7.30 REPORT – 6 JANUARY 2010

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.

Mr Abbott has also proved today that he does not understand basic parliamentary procedure.

At his doorstep interview, Mr Abbott said in relation to the CPRS:

*ABBOTT: I notice that it was not on the parliamentary notice paper that was published this week and I call on the Prime Minister to come clean and tell us exactly what his intentions are in respect of the emissions trading legislation.*

The Government has made clear on many occasions that it will reintroduce the CPRS on Tuesday 2 February. That remains the case.

The bill is not listed on the weekly draft legislative program because it must be introduced to the Parliament before it can be listed for debate. This is standard parliamentary procedure.

Mr Abbott has been caught out yet again making it up as he goes along.

As a former Leader of the House, and current Leader of the Opposition, Mr Abbott should know better.