



**LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION**  
**THE HON. TONY ABBOTT MHR**  
**FEDERAL MEMBER FOR WARRINGAH**

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5 February 2010

**TRANSCRIPT OF THE HON. TONY ABBOTT MHR**  
**DOORSTOP INTERVIEW,**  
**SYDNEY**

*Subjects: Rudd Government's failure to explain their ETS; Prime Minister's misleading of Parliament on industrial relations changes; Boxing Kangaroo flag.*

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**TONY ABBOTT:**

Good to be here, thanks for coming along. Just two points I'd like to make. In the last 24 hours the Prime Minister, the Deputy Prime Minister, Penny Wong and Greg Combet have all been asked how people will be worse off under Labor's great big new tax, they've all been asked to explain the impact of Labor's great big new tax on ordinary Australians and they just can't do it. Now, a Government that doesn't know the impact of its policies on the Australian people should drop those policies.

The other point I want to make is that it does look as though on the face of it the Prime Minister has misled the Parliament. He said in the Parliament last year that he guaranteed that no worker would be worse off as a result of the Government's industrial changes and yet he has admitted that he couldn't give that guarantee and wouldn't give that guarantee on the Neil Mitchell programme today.

Now, I know in the heat of political combat politicians make all sorts of claims but we expect the truth from our Prime Minister and it is a serious matter for the Prime Minister to make a solemn commitment to the Parliament that he knows he cannot keep.

**QUESTION:**

Why do you think he's done that? Why do you think he's admitted to that this morning?

**TONY ABBOTT:**

Well, because it is another Labor broken promise. It is now screamingly obvious that as a result of the Government's industrial changes some businesses are going to have to reduce their services, a lot of pharmacies for instance are worried that they are going to have to stop opening on weekends, stop opening late at nights. So, a lot of important community services are being affected by the Government's industrial changes.

Conversely a lot of ordinary workers are going to be worse off. It's clear that some aged care nurses could be out of pocket by up to \$300 a week. It seems that in some states hospitality workers could be out of pocket by up to \$3.00 an hour. We saw the situation today of young kids who want to work after school who

can't as a result of Labor's changes because Labor doesn't like arrangements that suit both workers and managers. Labor has these rigid national rules that can never be bent for anyone because the unions want them.

So, we have got a lot of problems but the biggest problem of all is the fact that the Prime Minister hasn't told the truth.

**QUESTION:**

What do you think the Government should do about those kids that want to, as you say, work after school?

**TONY ABBOTT:**

Well, we should not have industrial rules that stop arrangements that suit both the worker and the manager. If the arrangements satisfy people they should be doable under our system. The last thing I want to see is anyone forced to do anything. But where you have got arrangements in place, which people are happy with, they should not be forced to change them.

**QUESTION:**

Do you think it will ultimately cost jobs? Is it ultimately costing jobs?

**TONY ABBOTT:**

Look, of course. You can't have reasonable arrangements between employees and employers, you won't have a smooth and efficient economy and that always costs jobs.

**QUESTION:**

Penny Wong has, just with the ETS, has said that she is confident it can get through Parliament with the support of the Greens and some Independents? What's your view?

**TONY ABBOTT:**

Well, the Greens have been extremely critical of Labor's bill and I think that the sort of changes that would satisfy the Greens are the sort of changes that would completely and utterly shred Mr Rudd's economic credibility, if he has any.

**QUESTION:**

Just on another issue the Boxing Kangaroo flag in Vancouver that the athletes have been ordered to take down, what are your thoughts on that?

**TONY ABBOTT:**

Look, I like to see Australian symbols being displayed. I think Australians are proud of their country and they like to wear its colours and to show its symbols and so I'm disappointed by any move to make that harder.

**QUESTION:**

Would you encourage the athletes to keep it up?

**TONY ABBOTT:**

Look, I am not going to give our athletes instructions. I think they are more than capable of deciding what is best for them and what is best for the team. But I think they've flown that Boxing Kangaroo in a spirit of exuberance and I like to see exuberant, confident, vigorous athletes.

**QUESTION:**

You've called on the Prime Minister to bring on an early election, how confident are you? How confident are you and your party?

**TONY ABBOTT:**

Well, I'm very confident that when it comes to the arguments over Mr Rudd's great big new tax on the one hand, versus my direct action plan to improve the environment and reduce emissions, that the public will understand that my plan is simpler, it's cheaper and it's more effective than Mr Rudd's great big new tax on everything.

Thank you.

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