



# MEDIA RELEASE

## DR CRAIG EMERSON

Minister for Small Business, Independent Contractors and the Service Economy  
Minister for Competition Policy and Consumer Affairs  
Minister Assisting the Finance Minister on Deregulation

---

---

11 March 2010

### **BUSINESS REJECTS ABBOTT'S GREAT BIG NEW TAX**

Peak business bodies have rejected Tony Abbott's great big new tax – confirming the Rudd Government's view that it will drive up prices and hurt consumers.

Consumer Affairs Minister Craig Emerson said today's assessment of the Abbott tax hike by the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry was damning.

"The chamber's Greg Evans says a new tax or levy on business cannot be quarantined and will end up having an impact on overall prices," Dr Emerson said.

"Yesterday I warned that Tony Abbott's great new big tax would hit people at the supermarket checkout, the petrol bowser, the bank and the department store.

"Tony Abbott's fanciful notion that big business will happily absorb his new 1.7 per cent company tax increase in the national interest shows he is completely out of touch.

"It also shows he is no friend of the business community – large and small.

"The National Independent Retailers' Association has raised concerns that bigger businesses will pass the tax hike onto small retailers in higher rents and charges".

Australian National Retailers' Association president Margy Osmond has also rejected the Abbott tax, saying it was "clearly not carefully considered".

Dr Emerson said that if Mr Abbott really wants to support Australia's working families he should drop his plans to increase taxes and instead support the Rudd Government's sensible, workable parental leave plan.

"His failure to back our parental leave plan – which would support families from the start of next year, two years earlier than his plan – shows his true colours," Dr Emerson said.

"It's no wonder his own party is astonished by his latest bizarre, ill-conceived thought bubble."

**Media contact: Lisa Mullins 0413 423 210**