



MEDIA RELEASE

DR CRAIG EMERSON

Minister for Small Business, Independent Contractors and the Service Economy
Minister for Competition Policy and Consumer Affairs
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MINING COMPANY SCARE CAMPAIGN CRUMBLING

The mining companies' scare campaign is crumbling after another mining company was forced to clarify exaggerated reports, the third time in a week, Small Business Minister Craig Emerson said today.

Dr Emerson said Chinalco's admission yesterday that it is not suspending a project demonstrates that information is becoming incredibly muddled.

The front page of yesterday's Australian Financial Review said the company's bauxite development in Aurukun would: *"join the eight projects, worth \$55 billion, that have been put on hold due to the Rudd government's resource tax"*

By 2pm yesterday Chinalco came out to deny the claims in a Reuters article.

"This is the third time a company has had to come out and make clarifications," Dr Emerson said.

He said Xstrata was forced to defend itself after claiming that 60 jobs would be cut, and then admitting that they were not actual jobs but future contracts.

Today Xstrata is quoted in the Gladstone Observer saying all its statements remain accurate.

"Xstrata says that it is completely accurate in its statements – if that is the case, why did it need to come out earlier this week to explain that the 60 jobs it said it was cutting were actually future jobs?" Dr Emerson said.

"What is becoming clear is that the mining companies are willing to say or do anything to spread misinformation and create confusion.

"The mining companies roll out these scare campaigns whenever the government tries to stand up for regular Australians.

"We saw it with Work Choices, we saw it with the CPRS and we saw it with every other tax reform package that's been proposed.

"This tax is about giving regular Australians a share of the resources that we all own."

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