



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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LNP SUPPORTS TAX EVASION

Liberal National Party life member and pre-selection candidate Scott Driscoll has defended tax evasion by small businesses in the black economy, Small Business Minister Craig Emerson revealed today.

“In his latest criticism of the Labor Government, Mr Driscoll has condemned the Australian Taxation Office for its compliance activity against businesses engaging in cash transactions to evade tax, describing it as ‘public hangings,’” Dr Emerson said.

He called on Opposition Leader Tony Abbott to disassociate the Liberal Party from Mr Driscoll’s pro-evasion views.

“It’s bad enough that Tony Abbott wants to deny honest small businesses a well-deserved tax break, but I hope he doesn’t endorse his LNP colleague’s support for tax evasion.

“Honest small business owners resent the competitive advantage tax evaders gain against them and strongly support Tax Office enforcement activity.”

“But Mr Driscoll, as National President of the United Retail Federation, has actively supported illegal tax evasion to the detriment of law-abiding small businesses”.

Dr Emerson said the position of the United Retail Federation had all the hallmarks of the infamous White Shoe Brigade.

“The Tax Office is extending its small business support programs for viable, honest small businesses struggling to meet their tax obligations, at a cost of \$55 million,” Dr Emerson said.

“Honest small businesses deserve support and they don’t like tax evaders getting an advantage over them, but the LNP obviously does.”

Mr Driscoll recently sought pre-selection for the seat of Wright following the disendorsement of LNP candidate Hajnal Ban. He is a former National Party campaign director and candidate.

Mr Abbott’s media appearances with Mr Driscoll indicate a close working relationship between them.

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