



MEDIA RELEASE

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Minister for Trade

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Abbott's a Public Policy Pygmy

Today Tony Abbott gets to parade his economic isolationist policies by keeping alive the National Party's Bill to flout a decision of the World Trade Organization in favour of the importation of apples from New Zealand.

Shadow Agriculture Minister John Cobb has announced he is proceeding today with a Bill that would put Australia in breach of the world trading rules, inviting retaliation against innocent Australian farmers.

Mr Abbott must instruct Liberal MPs to vote against the Nationals' Bill. If he supports the Bill or sends it off to committee, Mr Abbott will cement in place his anti-trade, isolationist credentials.

Mr Abbott is an Oxford Blue, a heavyweight boxer. Instead of ducking and weaving, he should stand and fight for what he believes in – barriers to trade, economic isolationism, a one-world government global warming conspiracy and the weightlessness of carbon dioxide.

A Coalition vote for the Cobb Bill or referral to committee to destroy New Zealand's incentive to export apples to Australia would confirm Mr Abbott's support for an anti-trade, isolationist agenda.

And it would confirm that Mr Abbott can't be taken seriously; he'll say and do whatever he thinks might get him into The Lodge.

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