

FOR MEDIA

CRAIG EMERSON

Member for Rankin

12 October 2011

Moving towards a cleaner economy for all Australians

Today the Government's Clean Energy Future Household Assistance Package was passed in the House of Representatives, as part of legislation that will enable important economic and environmental reform in Australia.

By putting a price on carbon, the Gillard Government is steering Australia towards a cleaner energy future while modernising the economy and creating jobs.

"Currently, releasing carbon emissions is free despite the fact that it is harming Australia's environment," Craig Emerson, Member for Rankin, said.

"A carbon price changes this. It puts a price on the carbon that Australia's largest emitters produce.

"This creates a powerful incentive for businesses to cut their carbon emissions by investing in clean technology and finding more efficient ways of operating.

"If businesses lower their emissions, they pay less."

Recognising that some businesses may pass some of their costs on to consumers, the Government has ensured that the most vulnerable members of the community would be protected from any increases.

Out of 73,000 taxpayers in Rankin, around 65,000 will receive a tax cut. Of these 65,000 taxpayers, 55,000 will receive an annual tax cut of at least \$300.

The Government's plan also includes increases to pensions and family payments so people can do their bit for climate change while looking after the household budget.

"Our plan means more than 48,000 people will receive an increase in their payments, including those receiving Family Tax Benefits, pensions, Partner Allowance, Austudy, Abstudy and Newstart," Mr Emerson said.

Mr Emerson said there had been a lot of fear spread throughout the community about price increases for households as a result of the carbon price.

“Treasury has completed an independent breakdown of expected increases against the family budget,” Mr Emerson said.

“These increases will be offset for most people in Rankin by the compensation package.”

Overall expected increases

Milk, cheese and ice cream	10c per week
Bread, cereals and eggs	10c per week
Meat and Seafood	10c per week
Meals and takeaway	20c per week
Spreads, tea and coffee	10c per week
Clothing	10c per week
Footwear	10c per week
Rent	40c per week
Household appliances	20c per week
Childcare	10c per week
Hairdressing	10c per week
Electricity bills	\$3.30 per week