



The Retailers Association

Serving Members Australia Wide™

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“Meet More Business and Industry Leaders Premier Bligh, Not Less”

Driscoll: “Why weren’t the Qld Govt Ministers Taking Gina to Dinner?”

28 January 2010

Scott Driscoll, National Executive Director of The Retailers Association has expressed absolute frustration that the Queensland Government now seems so hog tied by some of their former Ministers going down to corruption charges, that there is confusion if it’s appropriate for current Ministers to meet with ***Gina Rinehart, the richest woman in Australia, mining magnate and daughter of the late Lang Hancock***, about projects she is trying to get up in Queensland.

“For goodness sake Premier, give your Ministers clear direction and some leadership on this and push them all out of their offices to find more people like Gina Rinehart to get business moving again in Queensland. Openly tell Queenslanders your plan and tell everyone you have created a mess of confusion over your comments that Ministers shouldn’t meet with business and industry figures, for fear we might all try to buy them. We won’t, but we do want to get this state moving again” said Mr Driscoll.

“We have just seen figures out in recent days showing Queensland lagging behind other states in retail and housing growth, according to **Access Economics**, yet Ministers seem unsure if they are allowed to meet with business leaders who can make a difference, boost growth and create jobs for Queenslanders. It’s a very disturbing situation and one bordering on farce,” said Mr Driscoll.

“The Queensland Premier and her Government need to get the lead out of their saddles and start driving the economy and this state. By that I don’t mean wearing pristine and polished hard hats and posing for cameras, I mean use some commonsense and go and win some big nation building projects, like the ones Ms Rinehart can deliver,” said Mr Driscoll.

“The fact Premier Bligh opted not to attend the dinner meeting with Ms Rinehart would I hope mean that she can point to another \$16.5Billion in Queensland investments she was off securing that evening instead,” said Mr Driscoll.

“We need growth, we need jobs, we need leadership and we need it in Queensland now. The clock is ticking,” said Mr Driscoll.

For further comment call Scott Driscoll on 0413 831 045.