



The Retailers Association

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MEDIA RELEASE

“Scott Driscoll Meets with Lord Christopher Monckton”

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Driscoll - “An ETS Will Either Create a Rudd Government Slush Fund Paid For By Every Australian Household, Or It Will Destroy Our Industries and Jobs.”

Friday, 29 January 2010

Scott Driscoll, National Executive Director of The Retailers Association has met and had dinner with Lord Christopher Monckton in Brisbane on Thursday evening to discuss the global climate debate and a potential Australian ETS tax on households.

“I was pleased to be invited to attend a private dinner with Lord Monckton and a handful of others on Thursday evening and have the opportunity of discussing the extent of the truly devastating impact an ETS will have on Australian jobs and households,” said Mr Driscoll.

“What is certain and that was discussed was the damage a Rudd Government ETS at any level, will have on our economy, with no positive effect derived for the environment,” said Mr Driscoll.

“If an ETS tax is set too low and the penalty per tonne of carbon emissions does not provide a “disincentive” to use, all this will do is create a massive tax payer funded slush fund for the Rudd Government,” said Mr Driscoll.

“Even more disturbing is if the Rudd Government ETS tax is set higher, it will close down industries and export our jobs to developing countries such as China and India who will reject anything as insane as an ETS tax which would impact their massive growth and development strategies over coming decades,” said Mr Driscoll.

“The further horrible irony of exporting our jobs to China or India following a Rudd ETS tax, is that it will have a reverse effect on carbon emissions and in reality create more. China and India are developing and rapidly expanding economies and are forced to develop using technologies that are cheaper and usually more prone to pollution. They have little option given the levels of development they are planning for,” said Mr Driscoll.

“This means by exporting our industries and jobs to China and India following a Rudd ETS tax, Australia will also be directly contributing to increased global carbon emissions, far more than if we maintained our industries and jobs in our country and used our developed and far “cleaner” technologies and processes,” said Mr Driscoll.

“Either way the Rudd Government wants to cut this, you can’t make a silk purse out of a sow’s ear. This is a monumentally stupid and ill conceived proposition that is fast being reduced to farce, based on political agendas, not good economics or solid science,” said Mr Driscoll.

For further comment call Scott Driscoll on 0413 831 045.