



The Retailers Association

Serving Members Australia Wide™

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ACTU Elitist Crap Places More Pressure on Interest Rates and Jobs

Driscoll: "Julia Gillard Must Publicly Reject Rampant Union Demands and Give Business Confidence"

Wednesday, 3 March 2010

The position of the Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU) in regards to interest rates is "elitist crap" as highlighted in the Media Release distributed by Sharan Burrow, ACTU President late Tuesday afternoon and would place more pressure on struggling small businesses says **Scott Driscoll**, National Executive Director of **The Retailers Association**.

"It is about time Sharan Burrow stopped breathing in the rarefied air and came down from the ivory tower that is the Presidential ACTU offices to take a walk in **Main Street Australia** with me and see how much small business is struggling," said Mr Driscoll.

"Ms Burrow can't be serious in her assertions to place more inflationary pressure on interest rates following the fourth consecutive rise by calling for a marked increase in wages. This out of touch view is a comet from a far off planet in which Ms Burrow inhabits, that would destroy business confidence and result in widespread industry lay offs on impact.," said Mr Driscoll.

"It seems Ms Burrow is not content with dictating the Rudd Government's inflexible Industrial Relations policy, which has small business staring down the barrel of dramatically increased penalty rates that substantially take effect this year and will continue to progressively worsen and destroy small business viability over the next 5 years," said Mr Driscoll.



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"In addition, through some sort of economic gobbledygook theory the ACTU President wants to now place more pressure on struggling small business owners with her ambit claims for substantial wage increases while the Australian economy is struggling to get off life support after a long bout of illness," said Mr Driscoll.

"Small Business and the retail sector are already facing pressures from interest rate hikes, industrial relations uncertainty and a potentially huge ETS tax. The last thing they need is the economic 'brains trust' from the ACTU calling for more proposals that add inflationary pressure and destroy jobs in the small business and retail sector," said Mr Driscoll.

"Julia Gillard must remove her former union lawyer hat and publicly reject rampant union demands for wages increases on the back of interest rate rises, on behalf of the Government and give business some confidence there might be some separation of powers between the lunar calls from the ACTU and the current Australian Government," said Mr Driscoll.

For further comment contact Scott Driscoll on 0413 831 045.

Editors Note: Scott Driscoll will be available in **Brisbane** for comment today, Wednesday 3 March.

Please contact **0413 831 045** to arrange interview times.