



**The Retailers Association**

*Serving Members Australia Wide™*

## MEDIA RELEASE

### Big New Business Tax

***Driscoll: "Premier Bligh's big new tax will hurt all Queenslanders"***

4 March 2010

**Scott Driscoll**, National Executive Director of a peak national retail sector body, **The Retailers Association**, has slammed the Bligh Government's moves to implement "a big new business tax" in the form of amendments to Land Tax and land valuation practices.

Mr Driscoll has called on the Government to desist from introducing its new tax saying it was "completely counter-productive" to the Premier's 100,000 jobs pledge and will hurt the bottom line of small business across Queensland.

"Make no mistake; this is another new tax from a Government deep in debt with no ideas for repaying it. This is no longer just a tax on land. This is a **big new tax on business** where the more successful and productive the business, the more tax they will have to pay," said Mr Driscoll."

Mr Driscoll said the 'big new business tax' would push up the cost of doing business significantly and would have substantial flow on effects to unemployment and prices for consumers. Mr Driscoll said that, ironically, a tax linked to business productivity will be "one of the most anti-productivity measures in Queensland's history".

"The Premier and her Minister, Stephen Robertson, need a serious wake up call. The occupancy cost to retailers is going to increase dramatically which in turn will hurt people's jobs and their hip pockets," said Mr Driscoll.

"The last time we saw such a jump in outgoings was when HIA collapsed and a shockwave ran through public liability, where policies in some instances tripled but on the whole the effect to outgoings and retailers averaged out between 5% and 10%.

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“With this absurd proposal, small business and retail is facing 30% to 50% and even higher in the smaller retail strips.

“This will mean huge cost pressures for retailers and higher prices for Queenslanders. This big new business tax coming in on top of uncertain IR laws from the Federal Government and the ever increasing energy and transport costs means that business will ground to a halt in Queensland.”

Citing the decision of the Minister to “delay” debate in the parliament as “an extraordinary decision”, Mr Driscoll challenged the Minister to a public debate on the issue.

“The Queensland Government does not realise the extent of the flow through of such a tax. Increased rates, rent and cost to business followed by increased prices to the consumer and widespread job losses. The Minister is claiming that debate in parliament must be delayed because of “political pressure” so I challenge him to debate it with me in the public domain and hear the concerns from small business first hand,” said Mr Driscoll

“Members of the small business community and the retail sector that I represent are absolutely disgusted with the proposal of such a destructive ‘business tax’. At a time when we are all waiting for the delayed Henry Tax Review, the small business and retail sector requires certainty not more taxation.

“The Bligh Government needs to realise that a business tax will not only put a big hole in the Premier’s 100,000 jobs pledge but it will actually affect peoples ability to conduct business and employ people. It is anti-business, anti-productive and will cost jobs,” said Mr Driscoll.

**For further comment call Scott Driscoll on 0413 831 045.**