



**United Retail Federation**

*Serving Members Australia Wide™*

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## **2010 BUDGET ROAD TO RUIN: WORST NIGHTMARES CONFIRMED AS SMALL BUSINESS SECTOR LEFT OUT IN THE CANBERRA COLD**

***Driscoll- "Rudd Government's 'no frills big tax budget' is no  
hope for Small Business"***

*12 May 2010: Parliament House, Canberra*

Peak national industry body, the **United Retail Federation** in responding to the Rudd Government's Budget, has said that the Government had "turned its back on small business" and called on the Opposition to deliver a "genuine small business budget".

**Scott Driscoll**, National President of The United Retail Federation, said that the Super Tax would wipe out the small business and the retail sectors in many areas across Australia that depends on a prosperous mining industry.

"The Budget has confirmed our worse nightmares... that the Rudd Government is hell bent on sacrificing small business communities across Australia with a Super Tax that will decimate many regions and create 'Ghost Towns'," Mr Driscoll said.

Mr Driscoll said he agreed with the concerns of Access Economics' Chris Richardson, who said the Rudd Government Budget had spent "more money than I'd like to have seen". Mr Driscoll also said that the Rudd Government was cherry picking some sweet words to serenade in a dud budget.

“I do agree with the concerns of the chief economist for Access Economics on the irresponsible spending habits of the Rudd Government. Just a few months ago we had senior Government Ministers, such as the Small Business Minister, declaring Access Economics as the alternative treasury and are now being taken to task by the same group,” Mr Driscoll said.

“Small Business is more than just two words; it’s actually real people which the Rudd Government has neglected with their irresponsible stimulus programs. The same irresponsible and incompetent programs forcing the RBA’s hand on raising interest rates, which is destroying consumer sentiment and creating a dark cloud over the small business and retail sector’s viability.

“And to once again listen to the Treasurer mouthing platitudes to the struggling small business and retail sectors is insulting. It seems the only thing this Government understands is more tax to fill budget black-holes and fund project back-flips.

“Just as astonishing is the level of spin behind documents such as the series entitled: ‘Stronger rural and regional communities’. The reality is that rural and regional communities, which are primarily made up of small business, will be some of the hardest hit by the Super Tax.

“I challenge the Treasurer and Prime Minister to come out to regional communities and those towns set to be crushed by the Super Tax and look these people in the eye because they are now going to be out of business, out of jobs and out in the cold.

“It appears the only effective result from the Rudd Government’s budget is killing the mining boom.

“The small business and retail sectors are the real heroes of our economy and the Rudd Government has turned its back on them.”

Mr Driscoll said he looked towards the response from Shadow Treasurer Joe Hockey and called on the Opposition to deliver real action for small business.

“It’s time for a genuine small business budget.”

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

**Editors Note:** Scott Driscoll, National President of the United Retail Federation will be available for comment today and across this week at **Parliament House, Canberra**.