



**United Retail Federation**

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## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **Mutant Super Tax by Any Other Name Is Still a Super Increase on Cost of Living**

*Friday, 2 July 2010*

The **United Retail Federation**, a peak national industry body representing the retail sector across Australia, has said that the decision made by Prime Minister Gillard today to change the headline rate of the Super Tax from 40 per cent to 30 per cent and adjust the rate at which it kicks in to 12 percent meant absolutely nothing to the consumers who would end up paying more as result of the power price hikes that will now follow.

**Scott Driscoll**, National President of the **United Retail Federation** said that Ms Gillard was using “weasel words” when talking about a Mineral Resource Rent Tax (MRRT) which would still negatively affect the mid-tier mining industry and ultimately mean electricity prices will blow out and food prices will skyrocket via the increased cost of coal to fire the power stations. Mr Driscoll added that the government had also sneakily back-flipped on its superannuation and tax cut promises for small business.

“The mutant Super Tax that Ms Gillard has announced and confirmed will now drive up electricity prices across the country at a time when electricity prices are already soaring and in doing so we will see food prices skyrocket,” Mr Driscoll said.

“Small business and consumers woke up yesterday to the news that power prices were going up as high as 13% and this will now add up to another 30% direct to homes and the food-grocery supply chain under Ms Gillard’s mutant Super Tax.

“In Queensland and New South Wales, electricity prices are rising in the order of 13%. In South Australia we are being hit with rises of up to 10%, in Tasmania it’s between 6% to 8% and in Western Australia it’s looking at up to 10%. Northern Territory electricity prices are set to go up 5%.

“What this addition of a mutant Super Tax means is that the power and electricity needed to operate any small business or grocery store will again skyrocket and every single Australian will be paying more for their food and groceries.

“I note that Ms Gillard and Wayne Swan, formerly of the view that all miners are ‘ignorant liars’, are still claiming credit for superannuation increases that the small business owner has to actually pay from their back pocket.

“The government has back-flipped from its promised 2% rate tax cut and is now lumping the 3% increase of superannuation on the small business owner.

“This means the gap gets wider for small businesses to be able to make those numbers work and the result will clearly be widespread job cuts.

“It’s about time that Ms Gillard woke up to the fact that these sorts of decisions are striking right into the heart of marginal electorates that primarily consist of small business,” Mr Driscoll said.

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