



**United Retail Federation**

*Serving Members Australia Wide™*

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### Premier Keneally and Lord Mayor Off with the Pixies on CBD Enviro Spin Scheme

Thursday, 16 September 2010

The **United Retail Federation**, a peak national industry body representing retailers and small businesses for over 120 years, has condemned the so called "memorandum of understanding" between Premier Kristina Keneally and Lord Mayor Clover Moore on the Sydney CBD makeover plan as "a moonbeam from a larger lunacy" that would further destroy the viability of CBD businesses and do nothing for traffic congestion.

**Scott Driscoll**, National President of the **United Retail Federation**, said the plan "had more spin than there would ever be from tyres on the proposed bike paths".

"The memorandum of fantasy signed by the Premier and Lord Mayor to waste more taxpayer money on pie in the sky projects proves that the inmates truly are in charge of the asylum", said Mr Driscoll.

"Small businesses are already suffering as a result of the last bikeways brain snap that cost taxpayers over 530 million dollars for tumbleweeds to roll along vacant bike paths and also cost small businesses in the CBD thousands of dollars in lost business because of the loss of parking spaces.

"Whilst the Premier and the Lord Mayor may live in a fantasy land where small businesses don't need customers and people don't drive cars anymore the rest of us cop the consequences when they decide to run off with the pixies again on these sorts of plans.

"The plan must immediately be called in for review and should not proceed as proposed otherwise there will be numerous CBD businesses facing a further drop in sales and some will be looking at closures.

"Public policy regarding transport and congestion for Sydney and New South Wales requires more than just engaging in further fantasies of bicycle networks that have already failed and do nothing for the traffic and transport challenges facing Sydney," said Mr Driscoll.

**Please Note: Scott Driscoll will be available in Sydney CBD from 9.30am to 12 pm on Thursday the 16<sup>th</sup> September for comment.  
For further comment call Scott Driscoll on 0413 831 045.**