

21 June 2011

The Hon Julia Gillard
Prime Minister
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Prime Minister,

On behalf of the Queensland business community, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry Queensland (CCIQ) together with the undersigned representatives of the local Chambers of Commerce are writing to express our concerns regarding the proposed carbon tax, and to express our collective opposition to its implementation.

Our organisations represent over 25,000 businesses across all industry sectors and regions of Queensland. All of these businesses will be impacted to some extent, either directly or indirectly, by a carbon price and other measures proposed to address climate change.

Queensland businesses acknowledge they have a responsibility to minimise the impact that its activities have on the environment. However effective action to tackle climate change requires comprehensive and sustained action by all major global emitting nations. Australia stands to significantly disadvantage its economy and the competitiveness of its businesses by implementing a carbon tax in the absence of international agreement and unilateral action.

A carbon tax will flow through the economy affecting the price of all goods and services and increasing costs for all businesses including those without a direct carbon price liability. Trade exposed and small and medium-sized businesses have limited ability to pass these costs onto their customers and as such are at even greater risk of reduced business competitiveness and viability.

Given the importance of coal mining and minerals processing in this state, Queensland businesses face an even greater impact from the introduction of a carbon price. These industries are key employers in regional and rural areas in Queensland, directly and indirectly supporting a large number of local small and medium-sized businesses.

Furthermore, the business community firmly believe that the carbon tax as proposed will prove ineffective in reducing Australia's carbon emissions especially when there is a clear absence of supporting policy and investment in technologies, industries and productive processes required to support the diversification of our economy and prepare our businesses for a carbon constrained environment.

In the interests of protecting those businesses who are the foundation of our economy, Australia's approach to emissions reduction must be based on innovation and support for our industries and communities to adapt to low emissions technologies and processes in a way that maintains productivity and economic growth.

Therefore it is our collective position that these downside risks are simply too great to continue with the proposed carbon tax from 1 July 2012.

We seek your commitment to delay the introduction of any significant emission reduction measures such as the proposed carbon tax until comparable measures are introduced by Australia's major international competitors and there is adequate opportunity for the business community to diversify and adapt.

On behalf of the undersigned Chambers of Commerce,



Mr David Goodwin
President
Chamber of Commerce and Industry Queensland

Mr Jeff Oliphant
President
Beaudesert & District Chamber & Community
Inc

Mr Ian Ferguson
President
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Executive Officer
Border Rivers Chamber of Commerce Inc

Mr Michael Gaske
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Boonah District Chamber Of Commerce Inc

Mr Simon Penrose
President
Brisbane North Chamber Of Commerce Inc

Ms Rhonda Cockinos
President
Bribie Island Chamber of Commerce Inc

Mr Dion Taylor
President
Bundaberg & District Chamber & Community
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Mr Ray Crompton
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Mr Steve Gaeth
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Mr Bill Gosewisch
President
Burrum Chamber of Commerce Inc

Mr Jason Deacon
President
Central Gold Coast Chamber of Commerce Inc

Mr Steve Smith
President
Cardwell Chamber Of Commerce Inc

Mr Cameron O'Neill
President
Commerce Roma

Mr Paul Paynter
President
Charleville and District Chamber of Commerce

Mr Greg Barnes
President
Coral Coast Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Inc

Ms Moira Williams
President
Coomera Chamber of Commerce & Ind Inc

Ms Rosemary Munroe
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Enterprise Biloela Association Inc

Noel Brownsey
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Dalby Chamber of Commerce Inc

Ms Barbara Spooner
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Mr Michael Whitty
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Eidsvold Chamber of Commerce

Ms June Ryan
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Mr Victor Cominos
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Emerald Chamber of Commerce Inc

Mr Don Waugh
President
Gayndah Chamber of Commerce

Mr Bob Whalley
President
Somerset Regional Business Alliance

Mr Bob Janssen
President
Gold Coast Combined Chamber of Commerce

Mr Kel McNamara
President
Glass House Country Chamber of Commerce

Mr Bernard Whebell
President
Hervey Bay Chamber Of Commerce Inc

Mr Peter McIntosh
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Ms Mary Brown
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Hinchinbrook Chamber Of Commerce Industry and Tourism Inc.

Ms Sharon Hoey
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Mrs Lynne Brown
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Mr Barry Cooke
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Kooralbyn Valley Chamber of Commerce Inc

Mr Peter Cusaul
President
Kenilworth Chamber Of Commerce Inc

Mr Steve Stevenson
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Kilcoy Chamber Of Commerce Inc

Mr Mike Took
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Kuranda Chamber of Commerce & Tourism Inc

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Mr Michael Franzmann
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Mr David Farley
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Mr Brett Moller
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Mr Terry Osborne
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Millaa Millaa Chamber of Commerce

Mr Roger Longhnan
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Montville Chamber of Commerce

Mr Ian Robinson
President
Moura Chamber Of Commerce Inc

Mr Brett Peterson
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Mt Isa Chamber Of Commerce Inc

Mr Sheldon Mulla
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Mareeba Chamber of Commerce Inc

Mr Paul McKennarney
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Mr Andrew Langton
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Mr Scott Elms
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Mr Bert Wilson
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Ms Irena Morgan
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Ms Cat Matson
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Mrs Alice Langford
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Mr Neil Stenhouse
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Ms Gail O'Neill
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Mr Laird Marshall
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Ms Kym Wickstein
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Mr John Travers
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Mr Norman Crisp
President
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Mr Tony Lambert
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Tamborine Mt Chamber Of Commerce & Industry Inc

Mr Phil Anderton
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The Gap Chamber of Commerce

Mr Kevin Reibel
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Tin Can Bay Chamber of Commerce & Tourism Inc

Mr Geoff McDonald
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Mr Ray Mortimer
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Mr S. T. Dawe
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Mr Phil Saunders
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