



The Hon Barry O'Farrell MP

Premier of NSW

Minister for Western Sydney

MEDIA RELEASE

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CARBON COMBET GETS IT WRONG: NO WONDER LABOR IS OUT OF TOUCH

What hole was Greg Combet hiding in during the state election campaign if he was unaware the NSW Liberals & Nationals' opposed Labor's carbon tax, NSW Premier Barry O'Farrell asked today.

"My opposition to Labor's carbon tax was crystal clear and for Greg Combet to try and suggest otherwise shows he's either totally incompetent or completely out of touch or both," Mr O'Farrell said.

"I even launched a mobile billboard opposing Labor's carbon tax, because I understand the devastating impact it will have on jobs and electricity prices," he said.

"In fact, the billboard spent quite a bit of time in the Hunter – the area of the Federal Parliament Mr Combet purports to represent. (A copy of the billboard is attached for the benefit of Mr Combet.)

"Studies indicate the Hunter Valley is likely to experience significant loss of jobs and investment. Frontier Economics found the Hunter would lose more than 13,000 jobs and \$1.2 billion in economic activity to 2050.

"Job losses in the Hunter will be 2.5 times worse than the next most affected region. How Julia Gillard, Greg Combet and John Robertson justify that to the people of the Hunter is beyond me.

"As I said years ago, we support moves to deal with climate change but imposing a new tax on struggling families is not the way to do it.

"The NSW Liberals & Nationals oppose Labor's carbon tax because of the devastating impact it would have on jobs and family budgets, especially electricity prices.

"It threatens the jobs of tens of thousands of people across NSW and will place an even greater strain on family budgets. They are already struggling to make ends meet and simply can't afford another Labor tax.

"I will not sit idly by and watch Julia Gillard, John Robertson and Labor introduce a new tax which will make life harder for families, pensioners and small businesses," Mr O'Farrell said.