

NATIONAL INDEPENDENT RETAILERS ASSOCIATION

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Carbon trading schemes designed for big business

The National Independent Retailers Association (NIRA) is concerned that any carbon trading or emissions management scheme designed by either side of politics will not be easily understood or applied by small retailers and that big businesses, particularly landlords, will pass on all costs and processes to small business.

Peter Strong, CEO of NIRA, stated today that “the traditional behaviour of big landlords is to pass on all costs and expensive processes to their tenants. We want the government and the opposition to ensure that any legislation includes protection for small retailers otherwise costs will spiral, small retailers will close and the consumer will suffer from high prices and limited choice.”

Mr Strong added, “any final carbon trading scheme and processes will in the end be dealt with easily by big business, and will probably benefit the banks, while working families who run a small business won’t have a chance of understanding or dealing with the changes. This is on top of workplace relations processes and awards that are designed to be understood by highly trained paymasters; tax policy that is gobbledigook to nearly everyone; and urban planning that is designed by big land lords and developers to capture all consumers and use and abuse small retailers.

NIRA asks the Prime Minister and the Minister for Small Business to ensure that the government’s agencies approach to emission trading has special consideration and protection for small business, the biggest group of employers in Australia.

Mr Strong highlighted that “most small retailers already embrace sound environmental management practices, both at their homes and at their shops, they work with their employees to recycle waste and select products that are more environmentally friendly, they also work with their customers and some of the more progressive local governments to manage their businesses in a way that will have least impact on the environment. Let’s not make that process harder to achieve.”

Mr Strong finished by saying “a small business is a working family, that needs the same support as any other working family and that includes protection from unfair behaviour from big business. Let’s make sure that the banks and the landlords don’t increase their profits from emission trading at the expense of the consumers and small retailers.”

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