

Proposed new tax adds to industry burden and cost of living

A proposed new carbon tax on cars would add a \$5000 burden on businesses trying to survive and eat into household budgets already stretched by South Australia's high costs of living.

Master Builders SA Chief Executive Officer Ian Markos said reports of a proposed emissions penalty to meet a fleet target on fuel efficiency would particularly hurt small businesses trying to survive in the building and construction industry.

"Every business in our industry relies on utes, twin cabs and four-wheel drives to carry heavy equipment to each job, to tow trailers and to cope with the tough terrain of construction sites. This proposal effectively asks every business to stump up another \$5000 in tax when many are struggling to keep their businesses turning over," he said.

"South Australia faces the biggest pain from this proposal – we already have the highest unemployment across the country and the highest electricity costs in the world. Enough is enough.

"Consumers are holding back from committing to sales and a new tax will give them another reason to say 'no'. That leaves building and construction businesses carrying that tax – and that comes from their pockets, from their family dinner tables.

"The Federal Government must rule this out now if they want to support businesses and their ability to employ people."

The proposal for a "Fuel Efficiency Standard for Light Vehicles" by the Federal Department of Infrastructure needs to consider the impact on businesses and households, he said.

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For further information

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