

CARBON TAX — ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

Statement by Member for Jandakot

MR J.M. FRANCIS (Jandakot) [12.58 pm]: I take this opportunity to put on the record my vehement opposition to the federal government's proposed carbon tax. Part of my concern stems from the fact that this tax will do great, great damage to the efficiency of the Western Australian steel industry and manufacturing sector, and make it even less efficient in competing with world markets. Recently, the Chairman of BlueScope Steel, Mr Graham Kraehe, warned that the proposed compensation for emissions-intensive trade-exposed industries that will be forced to compete with imports from countries that do not have a carbon tax would be like "putting a bandaid on a bullet wound". Mr Kraehe, who is also a member of the Reserve Bank Board, said that business had lost trust in the Gillard government, and the consultation process for the current carbon tax negotiations had been appalling.

I find it absolutely amazing, when opposition members come into this house and raise the issue of local content, that they would support a carbon tax that would make the people whom they are trying—whom we are all trying—to help so much less able to compete with the world market in steel manufacturing. I ask every member of this house to also stand and say that they oppose the proposed carbon tax because of the damage it will do to the mining industry and the steel manufacturing sector in this state.

The SPEAKER: Members, I provide the instruction that even allowing for parallax error at this stage, and it not quite being one o'clock, I will leave the chair until the ringing of the bells at two o'clock, when hopefully I will see some of you again.

Sitting suspended from 12.58 to 2.00 pm