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## INNISFAIL ADVOCATE COLUMN MAY 2011

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**Date: Monday 9 May 2011**

**For immediate release**

### **LABOR / GREEN CARBON TAX WILL HURT NORTH QLD**

The Gillard Labor Government, supported by the Greens, is pushing ahead with its carbon tax proposal that will burden North Queensland households and businesses with higher costs and cut jobs in our major industries. The recent news that every Australian household would face an annual carbon tax bill of \$863 confirms Julia Gillard has abandoned families, businesses and North Queensland industries in favour of pleasing the Greens that prop up her Labor Government.

Clearly, hanging on to political power is the Gillard Labor Government's first priority. Supporting families with cost of living concerns and supporting jobs in regional and rural areas has gone out the window in favour of this diabolical new tax. Electricity prices, fuel and the cost of freight will all go up under Labor's carbon tax. North Queenslanders already pay more, use more and rely more on these goods and services, so we stand to be hit harder under Labor's carbon tax.

I won't stand for it, the LNP won't stand for it and I know that North Queenslanders won't stand for it. Labor's carbon tax policy is one of the vaguest, most speculative and seriously irresponsible pieces of public policy ever proposed. The policy objective, in terms of what it will actually do to the climate, has not been defined and the impact on the economy has not been assessed. However, we do know one thing - it will cost the people of Queensland billions.

The Gillard Labor Government should be condemned for selling out families and businesses in North Queensland. The Bligh Labor Government should also be condemned for failing to stand up to their federal Labor colleagues on behalf of North Queenslanders. Anna Bligh is ducking and weaving the issue of the carbon tax. Our Premier won't say if she supports the carbon tax or not. How hard can it be to make up your mind about something that will cost jobs in the state you supposedly lead?

Both the Gillard Government and the Bligh Government have a shocking history of breaking promises. Only the LNP has stood up and strongly and consistently opposed the carbon tax at both the state and federal levels. Before the last state election, Anna Bligh ruled out a fuel tax and a fire sale of state assets. Anna Bligh broke both those promises. Before the last federal election, Julia Gillard ruled out a carbon tax. Julia Gillard has broken that promise. It's absolutely disgraceful.

North Queensland is suffering badly under the rule of the Labor – Green alliance. The proposed closure of the Coral Sea, unnecessary regulations on primary producers, more maps, zones and plans than you can poke a stick at and now a carbon tax, the whole Labor – Green alliance is out of control and adversely impacting on our livelihoods and our lifestyle. I warn the people of North Queensland that the Labor – Green alliance will continue to pursue its agenda at our expense.

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