



## Carbon tax backlash begins by builders

23 May 2011 | by David Wheeldon



Opposition to a carbon tax is beginning to surface in the building industry, the HIA perhaps the first group to speak out against the proposal by the Federal Government.

"The Federal Government's post-election announcement on carbon pricing is already impacting negatively on confidence levels and investment certainty across Australia," said HIA chief executive - association, Graham Wolfe.

"If implemented, its impact on housing affordability, Australian manufacturing, capital investment and jobs will be significant," said Wolfe.



The HIA's position on the proposed tax on carbon emissions was revisited by its National Policy Congress and National Manufacturers Council last week at HIA's national conference.

"Both peak bodies were unanimous in their rejection of any carbon

tax, claiming that a tax on carbon emissions will flow through to adversely affect all building products and all sectors of the construction industry," said Wolfe.

"National Policy Congress and the National Manufacturers Council members were in no doubt that a carbon tax will damage the Australian economy and particularly the building industry, whose consumers cannot afford to pay this new tax," Mr Wolfe added.

"Building product manufacturers and new home buyers across Australia will be the hardest hit by a carbon tax," said Wolfe.

"There will be an immediate and inevitable flow through of cost increases across the broad range of building materials, products, fixtures and fittings," said Wolfe.

"At \$20 per tonne, a carbon tax will add an extra \$6,000 or more to the cost of building an average new residence, placing additional affordability pressure on new housing activity, and adding \$43 extra per month to family mortgage repayments."

"That adds a further \$12,800 in repayments over a 25 year loan," Wolfe said.

Chance to comment

Responding to the HIA announcement, sustainable building consultancy Australian Living has since posed the question to the HIA: 'How would you go about reducing emissions in one of the most carbon intensive industries?'

We'd like to hear your views on this important issue, so please take the opportunity to have your say and comment below this article.

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