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DON'T TAX OUR BELCHING COWS: COUNTRY ALLIANCE

The Country Alliance Party has urged the Federal Government to exempt fuel and agriculture from an emissions trading scheme to protect regional communities against higher petrol and diesel prices.

Party spokesperson, Fiona Hilton-Wood, said her party remained committed to environmental protection but that an emissions trading scheme risked taxing already struggling regional communities, to the benefit of multinational private investors.

“There is too much uncertainty about emissions trading to be comfortable about it, and we are fearful that regional communities will bear the brunt of it because of the longer distances and usage of fuels in food production. In all probability, it will be counter-productive,” she said.

“What’s next? A tax on cows for emitting environmentally damaging methane? Is the government going to require farmers to invest in specially developed plugs?”

Ms Hilton-Wood said the agricultural sector, already losing market share from competing against cheaper imported products, would be badly affected by the additional tax.

“Until the impacts of emissions trading are fully understood, fuel, agriculture and the generators in the Latrobe Valley should be exempted.”

IMPORTANT NOTES:

It is important to note that Country Alliance does not have a specific policy on climate change because of the doubt over the reported science.

It notes with great interest the doubt cast by the UK High Court on the facts touted in “An Inconvenient Truth”, and the scepticism by Productivity Commission researchers of the Stern Report. In both cases, the arguments put forward were determined to be partisan.

However, at the same time, maintaining a clean environment is a priority.

Country Alliance has always supported proper environmental policies, however policies such as that released by Professor Ross Garnaut, cannot be sensibly developed by bureaucrats who live and work in our major cities if they have no experience or exposure to the sectors they are preparing advice on.

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