



# TRANSCRIPT

## ACCI CHIEF EXECUTIVE PETER ANDERSON ON ABC RADIO'S "AM" PROGRAM - 16 SEPTEMBER 2009 - CPRS

### Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme

---

**DAVID MARK:** When the Opposition voted down the Government's emissions trading scheme legislation in August, it did so without suggesting any amendments. Silence for the Coalition is no longer an option - it has to come up with a negotiating position in the next two months.

But some Liberal MPs and the Nationals remain firmly opposed to any ETS bill. Warren Truss is the leader of the National Party.

**WARREN TRUSS:** Members have different views on the issues, the National Party has made it clear that we regard Labor's CPRS as completely unacceptable, and if it's served up again we'll vote against it.

**DAVID MARK:** The Coalition Party room has been told that the business community wants the Opposition engaged in order to quote "repair and improve a flawed bill". But at least one business group sees no need for speed.

**PETER ANDERSON:** It is much more important to get the ETS right rather than rush it.

**DAVID MARK:** Peter Anderson is the Chief Executive of the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

**PETER ANDERSON:** Particularly for the Australian economy, which is so heavily reliant on global trade and has emission intensive industries forming a key part of our economic infrastructure.

So there is going to need to be an engagement between the major political parties to ultimately come to a resolution on this issue. But it is not just an Australian issue, it is a global issue, and the prudent and sensible course of action is to work in conjunction with agreements made by other nations; not unilaterally or in advance of those agreements.

**DAVID MARK:** So you quite specifically don't want the Parliament to pass the legislation before the Copenhagen meeting?

**PETER ANDERSON:** That's right.

**DAVID MARK:** Any amendments suggested by business will have to go back to a divided Coalition party room. Warren Truss.

**WARREN TRUSS:** Well, we've said that if somebody's got amendments we're prepared to look at them, if they're improvements we'll vote for them. But unless the scheme is radically changed it's unlikely to get our support in the end.

**DAVID MARK:** Obviously there may come a point where you will have to split from the Liberal Party?

**WARREN TRUSS:** Well we may vote differently on this issue, we voted differently on issues in the past. We are different political parties, and we can manage those issues in the context of our Coalition arrangement.

**DAVID MARK:** What's worse, passing the ETS or facing a double dissolution over the legislation?

**WARREN TRUSS:** Well, political parties have to make a stand on matters of principle, and that's what we're doing. There is no grounds to have a double dissolution. Kevin Rudd can go to his conference in Copenhagen with the targets that the United Nations wants. If he seeks to have a double dissolution on this matter it is simply a political stunt.

**DAVID MARK:** How well is Malcolm Turnbull handling this issue?

**WARREN TRUSS:** Well, he's seeking to find an appropriate way forward, that's the job of the leader of the Opposition. My job as leader of the Nationals is to present our perspective, and we've done that clearly.

**TONY EASTLEY:** The Leader of the National Party, Warren Truss, ending David Mark's report.