



Senator the Hon Richard Colbeck

Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources

Liberal Senator for Tasmania

MEDIA RELEASE

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Pressure on Justine Keay to Stand up for Small and Medium Business

Tasmanian Liberal Senator Richard Colbeck welcomed today's announcement to fast-track legislated tax relief to bring down the tax rate to 25% for businesses with a turnover under \$50 million by 2021— five years early.

"Small and medium businesses employ more than 50% of our workforce and tax relief gives them the ability to provide more opportunities for workers and young people in Braddon," Senator Colbeck said.

"The first wave of tax relief has already boosted jobs, investment and wages in towns right across our region."

"Small businesses put their employees at the centre of what they do and by taxing them less the Government is backing them to do even more."

However, Justine Keay's attempted deception of workers and businesses during the Braddon byelection has been once again exposed with the Coalition Government's decision to fast-track small and medium business tax relief.

"Ms Keay, in prepared remarks that she later doubled down on, told the people of Braddon at the TCCI forum that her party would match the Coalition Government's business tax reduction to 25%,"* Senator Colbeck said.

"Only weeks before, in the wake of his humiliating backflip, Bill Shorten told the Burnie community that he would freeze the business tax reduction at 27.5%."**

"Bill Shorten and Justine Keay say one thing in Tassie and another in Canberra."

"With a vote in the House of Representatives next week, Justine Keay will need to decide if she is going to stand up for small and medium business or just continue her attempts at deception."

"It is time for Ms Keay to come clean – will she vote to raise taxes for small and medium business or join the Coalition and vote for lower taxes?"

* *"There will be no repeal of legislated tax cuts for small business. I get that you need certainty and you'll get it." – Justine Keay, prepared remarks to Tasmanian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Monday 23 July 2018)*

** *"Any implemented tax rate as of the election will be honoured. I accepted that argument that we needed to provide certainty. So any tax scale that you're paying at the time of the election will be honoured, no question. People need that certainty." – Bill Shorten, prepared remarks to Burnie Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Thursday 5 July 2018)*

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