

# MEDIA RELEASE



The Hon **David Hawker** MP  
Federal Member for Wannon



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## LABOR'S CPRS WILL DESTROY MAJOR LOCAL INDUSTRY

Labor's Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS) will result in the premature closure of Alcoa's Portland Aluminium Smelter costing hundreds of local jobs, Federal Member for Wannon David Hawker said today.

"Labor's CPRS has not taken into account the extra cost of electricity from brown coal for the Portland smelter (and Geelong). This will result in a lack of investment in the smelters, which will inevitably lead to their premature closure in the future," Mr Hawker said.

"The smelter is vital to the health of the Portland economy, and Prime Minister Rudd's haste in demanding this legislation be passed before any global agreement is made at Copenhagen highlights once again Labor's lack of understanding of the regions. He is prepared to sacrifice the jobs of local workers for his own vanity and political gain."

Mr Hawker said, after discussions today with senior Alcoa officials that without proper adjustment for the penalties Labor's CPRS will place on Victorian smelters, premature closure is inevitable.

Mr Hawker has repeatedly argued against the passage of Labor's Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) prior to the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen and before any similar action by our major trading partners.

"Labor's ETS risks thousands of local jobs and our standard of living for no environmental benefit. It is not in our national interest, and it is certainly not in the interest of this region," he said.

"Climate change is a global issue that requires a global solution.

"In the absence of an appropriately comprehensive global agreement an Australian ETS will push up prices for all households and businesses, lead to job losses, place pressure on our economy and place our energy security at risk – for no environmental benefit," Mr Hawker said.

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**Media contact: Jane Templeton (02) 6277 4118**