



MEDIA RELEASE

HON ROBERT BROKENSHERE MLC

FAMILY FIRST
The Independent Party



GLOBAL ECONOMIC FREEFALL REQUIRES CAR TARIFF FREEZE

Sunday 19 October 2008

FAMILY FIRST MLC Robert Brokenshere has today called upon the State and Federal Governments to reverse moves to cut car tariffs and protect the car industry in the face of global economic turmoil.

“We need to protect jobs. We need to protect families. The now-official US recession and other global turmoil means we need to review everything and defend our economy”, Mr Brokenshere said, “I have written to the Premier to lobby the Prime Minister, and to the PM himself, calling for no further tariff reductions”

“Why? We are in an unprecedented global financial crisis with a motor industry in turmoil:

1. European car manufacturers have called for a €40bn (\$80bn AUD) loan package and approve of an incentives scheme for the scrapping of old vehicles to help them develop more environmentally-friendly vehicles;
2. The US recently approved a similar package to the tune of \$25bn (\$37bn AUD);
3. Also in the US, there are talks between General Motors and Chrysler for a merger;
4. Toyota’s share value has dropped dramatically in Japan (21%), last week posting their biggest weekly plunge in at least 34 years of records;

“I am calling on the Prime Minister to ensure there are no further tariff reductions for the next **5 years** while the world works through the global financial crisis. I also want to go further than the Bracks review – which recommended tariff reductions – and **call forward the Bracks-recommended \$60-80m stimulus package** for implementation right now. We need to send the **right signal** to the global carmaking industry that Australia wants to remain in the industry”

“This is all about supporting Australian car manufacturers and associated component manufacturers, and assuring job security.”

“I support the Prime Minister’s \$10bn economic stimulus package, but he needs to start looking at suring up jobs for Australian families too”

Mr Brokenshere said he had also written to the Premier calling upon him to consider stamp duty reduction for purchase of new cars to stimulate domestic sales.