



# FAMILY FIRST



Steve Fielding **Family First** Senator for Victoria

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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## **FAMILIES BEAR THE BRUNT OF EMISSIONS TRADING**

FAMILY First is concerned families will bear the brunt under the government's proposed emissions trading scheme outlined in its Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme discussion paper.

"Petrol, power, food, mortgages – these are what matter to everyday Australians. Families will be worried about projected price increases of 16 per cent for electricity and nine per cent for gas and that inflation could be pushed up almost one percent, sending mortgage rates soaring," Family First Leader Senator Steve Fielding said today.

"The price of food is not mentioned in the report, but families will be uneasy that the scheme could lead to an increase in grocery prices.

"Family First is not in the camp of climate change sceptics nor in the camp of climate change extremists. Family First are climate change realists.

"Family First seeks a balanced approach to tackling carbon pollution that does not cripple families, our workforce or our economy.

"The last thing anyone wants is an 'emissions trade recession'. Too aggressive a scheme will hurt families and too little will not help cut greenhouse gases.

"We need to know what the scheme will cost before we can make a judgement on its merit. The Government has not costed the emissions trading plan, so we're still waiting for the cost of the proposed solution.

"Family First's two year campaign for a cut in petrol tax has had some success, with the Government deciding to cut the tax to offset any increase in the petrol price from an emissions trading scheme. But this is still a long way short of a real petrol tax cut.

"A cut in petrol tax delivers three times the saving, as a proportion of income, to the poorest 20 per cent of households compared to the wealthiest 20 per cent.

"Family First is disappointed the government's scheme does not include a commitment to public transport, which is a crucial omission when a key goal is to encourage people to use more efficient transport," Senator Fielding said. "Family First wants the Federal Government to establish a billion dollar investment fund for public transport, to ensure those in the outer suburbs and regional areas have a viable alternative to their cars."

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