

Media Release

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No Matter Tuesday's Result, Joe Hockey Has Got To Go

The Australian Taxpayers' Alliance, a non-partisan activist body dedicated to protecting taxpayers' rights, has called on Joe Hockey to be sacked as Treasurer irrespective of the results of Tuesday's leadership spill.

"No matter the result of Tuesday's leadership spill, one thing is certain: Joe Hockey's legacy is one of consistent, abject failure, and his position as Treasurer is untenable" said Tim Andrews, Executive Director of the Australian Taxpayers' Alliance.

"Mr Hockey's repeated and consistent failures are at the core of the Abbott Government's problems. He has failed to communicate the need for budget reform to the Australian people, and his inability to sell the Government's reform agenda is inexcusable and embarrassing.

"Despite his "tough" rhetoric significantly damaging the Government's popularity, Mr Hockey has failed to take any concrete action to reign in Commonwealth overspending. The 2014-15MYEFO shows overspending set to skyrocket with more and more new cash-splash schemes announced, while the cuts that Mr Hockey did make were poorly thought out and disproportionate. This is the worst of all worlds – all the political pain, for none of the economic gain; public support for reform is strained and yet there is no benefit for the taxpayer.

"As well as failing to reform expenditures, Mr Hockey has failed in his core promise to relieve the tax burden, with the 2014-15 budget increasing the tax burden by a staggering \$100 billion, slugging every Aussie family with multiple tax hikes. Yesterday's shambolic announcement of a progressive company tax stifling Australian businesses with more red tape, when Australia's company tax is already one of the highest in the world, was just the latest in a long string of bizarre announcements that make no economic or political sense.

"There can be no doubt about it: For the sake of the country, Joe Hockey has got to go" concluded Mr Andrews.

"Treasurer Joe Hockey has failed to stamp his authority on economic management" added Professor Sinclair Davidson, Professor of Institutional Economics at RMIT University and Academic Fellow of the Australian Taxpayers' Alliance. "A government that lacks fiscal discipline cannot govern Australia. If Tony Abbott does survive the Tuesday ballot, he needs to get serious about the economy. That means a new team in Treasury."

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