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## Bruce Billson's pro-small business reform should be supported

CPA Australia Chief Executive Alex Malley says the Small Business Minister's proposed competition policy reform is showing his Cabinet colleagues what can be done when you are across the issues and connected with stakeholders.

"The actions taken by Bruce Billson in the design and development of an 'effects test' for competition law is a template for good policy making that other ministers should study," Malley says.

"The effects test will enhance protections for small businesses against larger rivals who may seek to misuse their market power. The reforms will provide additional incentives for businesses of all sizes to innovate and compete by reducing the fear of anti-competitive behaviour by larger and more established businesses.

"Billson's acting on the sound advice of the independent panel reviewing competition policy.

"The complaints from big business and its representative bodies are entirely expected and can be discounted. The Minister is staring down those concerns and has made the right call to support its introduction.

**"Billson consulted widely when in opposition and he's continued that critical stakeholder engagement in government. When you are informed, know what you want to achieve and have the courage of your convictions, decisions to act on reform become easy.**

"As our country transitions to a knowledge-based economy, it's clear that more innovative and competitive businesses, especially small businesses, are essential for jobs growth and a more prosperous economy.

"A review of competition policy was one of the incoming Abbott Government's major economic policy initiatives. The approach of Billson and the independent panel led by Professor Ian Harper shows that difficult policy can be widely discussed, debated and designed where there are the right people with the right motivations involved.

"The contrast with the delayed and poorly communicated tax reform process, which is looking less and less likely to achieve any meaningful reform, is stark.

"It's not lost on anyone in business that Billson's instant asset write-off policy saved the last budget and connected with Australia's tradies, farmers and cafe owners in a way the government has been unable to achieve before or since.

"Australia has been built on small business. It's where entrepreneurship thrives and it's where our future prosperity lies. Bold policy initiatives such as Billson's instant asset write-off and the effects test are essential to providing the right settings.

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# MEDIA RELEASE



“In the context of the alleged dysfunction of Cabinet, it’s refreshing to know that a minister is capable of driving reform in the national interest, in spite of all the self-created distractions in the Abbott Government.”

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