



Media Statement

Morrison must Make Exxon Pay Tax on US junket

Malcolm Turnbull's Treasurer Scott Morrison this morning announced a visit to the US to study the impact of President Donald Trump's massive tax cut for corporations. The Treasurer's trip includes a meeting with global tax avoider ExxonMobil.

In a statement Scott Morrison says he "will explore the impact of US corporate tax changes on companies' operations, particularly employee wages" – but ExxonMobil pays no corporate tax in Australia and has been cutting wages for gas maintenance workers in Victoria.

Make Exxon Pay spokesperson Jason Ward says Morrison must confirm the nature of the meeting – and if the Treasurer is prepared to put pressure on the tax avoider. Since 2013 ExxonMobil Australia paid no corporation tax on \$24.8 billion of revenue using questionable internal loans and offshore tax havens.

"Why is Scott Morrison meeting with ExxonMobil to see what value they got from a tax cut, when they don't even pay any tax in Australia?"

"We hope Morrison's meeting with these oil bosses is about telling them to pay their tax in Australia. Otherwise – why is he there?"

"Voters are sick of politicians letting big business get away with paying no tax. There are two people who can do something to crack down on these corporations: Malcolm Turnbull and Scott Morrison."

The Australian Workers' Union is a member of the Campaign to Make Exxon Pay Coalition. Victorian Secretary Ben Davis said it was a joke that Morrison was searching for a connection between tax cuts and wage growth.

"In our experience, the ones who cut wages the worst – ExxonMobil and Glencore – don't even pay tax as it is. So why would giving them a tax cut do anything to grow wages? We know they'll just pocket it."

Exxon and its contractor have demanded gas workers maintaining its facilities in eastern Victoria take 30% pay cuts or lose their jobs. 200 workers and their families have been protesting the wage cuts without pay for 222 days.

"Scott Morrison should be standing up for Australian workers and Australian taxpayers – not working out how to spin a tax cut for cheats like ExxonMobil." says Davis.

Last week the ACTU launched a campaign to target marginal Liberal and National seats on the issue of Exxon's tax dodging, and billboards have started to go up in major cities.

The tax campaigners are calling for law changes that will see multinational companies like Exxon be more transparent in their tax affairs, and pay at least hundreds of millions of dollars every year in corporation tax.

ExxonMobil Australia executives are due to appear before a Senate hearing in mid-March to answer questions about their tax affairs under oath.

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