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An opportunity to hit 'Control + Alt + Delete' on Government policies

The Institute of Public Affairs hopes that in changing leadership the Labor Party has effectively hit 'Control + Alt + Delete' on important policies and issues that were mishandled by her predecessor, according to John Roskam, Executive Director of the Institute of Public Affairs.

"The IPA congratulates Ms Julia Gillard on her election as Prime Minister. Ms Gillard is a good communicator and an intelligent and passionate advocate of national issues," said Mr Roskam.

"As the Minister for Education, Ms Gillard oversaw some good initiatives such as the MySchool program which has brought about greater transparency and accountability. But, Ms Gillard was also primarily responsible for the poor management and implementation of the BER program.

"Ms Gillard's election to the leadership is an opportunity to re-orientate government's policy direction.

"It provides an opportunity for the government to reconsider the damage the mining tax could do to the Australian economy. Tax reform is important. But the tax rate and mechanism of the Rudd government's mining tax threatens one of Australia's boom industries.

"Prime Minister Gillard should consider completely scrapping the emissions trading scheme. There is no global agreement on emissions reduction. Nor is there one likely to come. Without a global agreement, Australia cannot risk punishing its energy sector with an emissions trading scheme.

"Furthermore, Institute of Public Affairs polling has found that Australians are unwilling to pay the high costs an emissions trading scheme would bring. Confirming that the government does not plan to seek an emissions trading scheme would be good policy and good politics.

"This also provides an opportunity to scrap the proposed internet filter. The internet filter will be ineffective and a substantial limit on free speech. This policy is a dud and should be abandoned.

"Prime Minister Gillard's experience in the industrial relations portfolio means she should recognize the importance of a flexible and liberalised workplace relations system.

"The change in leadership also provides an opportunity to scrap the unspent parts of the government's economic stimulus package.

For more information and comment:

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