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## ANDREWS, BAIRD WRONG ON TAX: IPA

Calls from Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews and NSW Premier Mike Baird to raise the tax burden on Australians should be ignored, according to Brett Hogan, Director of Energy and Innovation Policy at free market think tank the Institute of Public Affairs.

This morning, Mike Baird released a video on his Twitter account calling for the GST to be raised to 15 per cent to increase funding for the national health system. Also this morning, it was revealed that Daniel Andrews will tell this week's COAG meeting that the Medicare levy should be increased.

"Both of these calls ignore the real problem facing Australian taxpayers, and that is that taxes are too high," says Mr Hogan.

"Australia does not have a revenue problem – we have a spending problem," says Mr Hogan.

Research last year by Dr Mikayla Novak, Senior Research Fellow at the Institute of Public Affairs, revealed that Australia is among the highest taxing countries in the world. This research was corroborated by the release of the OECD's *Revenue Statistics 2014*.

"In *Revenue Statistics 2014*, the OECD reported our tax-to-GDP ratio to be 27.3 per cent in 2012. But once compulsory super and health insurance mandates are added, our tax-to-GDP ratio rises to 33.5 per cent," says Mr Hogan.

"Since the OECD average is 33.7 per cent, it is not credible to assert that Australia is a low tax country."

"Australians are suffering under the weight of an overbearing tax burden, and Mike Baird and Daniel Andrews want to make this problem worse."

"To protect the long term health of Australia's economy, and to help ease the burden on Australian taxpayers, we should be looking to lower taxes at every turn, not raise them."

"These calls by Daniel Andrews and Mike Baird are not the solution," says Mr Hogan.

The full report, *The Australia 'Low Taxing Country' Myth* by Dr Mikayla Novak, is available to download [here](#).

Dr Novak's media release on the publication of *Revenue Statistics 2014* is available [here](#).

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