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TRANSCRIPT

Interview on The Bond Report
Topics: *Productivity Commission, Inflation*

E&OE

CALEB BOND: Joining me now to discuss this, Deputy Manager of Opposition Business, Kevin Hogan. Kevin, good to see you. There is just no legitimate reason that tax and workplace relations should not have formed part of this inquiry by the Productivity Commission, except for the fact that the Treasurer didn't want to be told he was wrong.

KEVIN HOGAN: Well, this is a Spin Jim Chalmers exercise, Caleb, and we know that, you know that the community know that the business community know that. Because what we're saying here is when we talk about productivity, what are we talking about? We're talking about is life getting easier? Is life getting harder? Have we got more money to spend or have we got less money to spend as both families and indeed businesses?

And Chalmers has said he's all about productivity and as has been highlighted in the intro he doesn't want to hear about the fact that his capital gains tax increases, the other taxes that he has increased, has changed the risk reward equation in this nation. You take the risk; the Albanese Labor government want to take the reward.

It's killing investment, its killing productivity, and he doesn't want to hear about it because as we also know with Spin Jim, he doesn't accept responsibility for anything.

CALEB BOND: The Productivity Commission has been reasonably strident, I think in the way it's responded to this. I mean, it has said in its interim report that this tax and workplace relations were issues that were brought up repeatedly, but we can't touch it.

Which reads for all the world like the Productivity Commission saying we should have been able to touch it, which is quite a rebuke really.

KEVIN HOGAN: Well, it is, and it's interesting, and good on them for having the courage to do that because we know that Labor can be bullies as well. And if you're a government official or a bureaucrat who speaks out about the government, that doesn't do your career any good.

So good on the Productivity Commission pushing back against a Treasurer who doesn't want to take responsibility for anything or doesn't want to be told that decisions he has made are

making things worse. So good on them for pushing back. We saw, as you highlighted earlier, too, the Governor of the Reserve Bank too, saying, you know.

When we talk about inflation, and when you have inflation, it means your cost of living is getting worse. We have one of the highest inflation rates in the world. Again, Jim Chalmers would have it that none of it's his responsibility. But again, we see the Reserve Bank pushing back as well and saying government responsibility lies as part of this, and good on them.

CALEB BOND: As I said before, productivity now sits at minus point two percent. Imagine the Coalition is in government. How do you reverse that?

KEVIN HOGAN: Well, because we're going to have to look at things like the tax system. We've said we will repeal the fact that Labor has changed the whole risk reward equation in this nation with capital gains tax, with negative gearing, with the trust taxes.

We will repeal those. We need cheaper energy, Caleb. We have some of the highest energy costs in the world, and we've seen Labor's net zero 2050 fantasy is never going to happen and also lowering productivity and raised energy prices in our economy. But there's much more, and we will reveal much more.

One of the policies we revealed at the last budget in reply speech, the tax back guarantee. When Labor talk about tax, they're just talking about increasing taxes. That is a real decrease in ongoing taxation for the Australian public, and we think that's important.

CALEB BOND: Indeed. Kevin Hogan, thank you for your time.

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Friday 6 November 2026