

Presidents Message

20-7-15

Catherine Livingstone, president of the Business Council of Australia declared events over the last month marked “a low point in political leadership”. Unusually harsh words.

It was born out of a frustration by the business community concerning lack of debate on how to improve the Australian economy. We all know the problems: unmaintainable fiscal policy, low productivity, inefficient taxation and unsustainable retirement income policy.

However within hours of a call by the Treasurer for fundamental tax changes and a rebalance of the tax mix, both major parties began ruling out key elements of sensible reform.

Ms Livingstone lamented ““At a time of great economic uncertainty, Australia needs and deserves strong leadership, and the opportunity to discuss reform options as a community”. However political parties are more concerned with being wedged or marginalised than engaging with the community in a mature national conversation.

Social media some of it utterly inane and a 24/7 media cycle has delivered a generation who know only to punch and counter punch.

Politics is the art of the achievable however we need a bigger picture than catering to narrow identity politics and special interest groups. It is time for business groups and the community to demand more of our elected representatives.