

## **Aust Gov Invokes Emergency Powers for Mine Tax**

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0514 GMT [Dow Jones] In a sign of just how heated the debate between Australia's Rudd Labor government and the country's powerful mining lobby is becoming over a controversial proposal to impose a 40% tax on mining profits, Canberra invokes "emergency" powers to embark on its own advertising campaign to counter the full page ads mining lobbyists have been running, panning the tax proposal.

Normally, political parties are constrained from running campaigns for party political purposes, except in national emergency or extreme urgency. "As the (tax) changes also affect the value of capital assets and impact on financial markets, I'm satisfied that a compelling reason for an exemption exists, particularly given the nature and extent of misinformation against a backdrop of continuing market volatility," Cabinet Secretary Ludwig says in approving the campaign.

However this could be a serious misstep for PM Rudd if voters (who'll foot the bill for the taxpayer-funded ad campaign) don't agree that his struggle to explain the mining tax policy quite constitutes a national crisis.

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