

Small firms get no help with CO2 tax: oppn

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Small Business Minister Nick Sherry says the federal government's \$40 million energy efficiency information program will help small business determine how they will cope with increased power costs.

"There is an increase in power costs, there is no doubt about that," Senator Sherry told a Senate estimates hearing on Wednesday.

But the opposition's junior spokesman for small business Senator Scott Ryan, who quizzed the minister in Senate estimates, said the program was notgoing to provide a single dollar to assist small businesses facing not only a carbon tax, but a challenging business climate.

"There is nothing in this program that is going to help a small business adjust to rising costs," Senator Ryan said in a statement.

"This is a tax which makes life harder for small business, a \$40 million fund that tells them life is getting harder, and a minister who tells them to deal with it on their own."

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