



**PRIME MINISTER**

**STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER, THE HON P.J. KEATING, MP  
GST AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT - TRUST ME, SAYS HEWSON**

Dr Hewson's own team has been caught out again telling the truth about the GST.

In the process they have reminded people of just how far this tax will reach into people's daily lives.

Opposition frontbencher Ian McDonald says the GST will now apply to the water and sewerage services on your rates bill.

He's also conceded that other council services such as transport and garbage collection could be taxed.

But Senator McDonald says the public will have to wait until after March 13 before decisions are made about how the GST will affect council rates.

He says the GST is too complicated and the details will have to be worked out later.

This is confirmed by another Coalition spokesman, Geoff Prosser, who said on Perth radio on Tuesday:

"I think that in this whole program we have put forward we have generally set the guidelines down and we need to sort of sit down with councils and go through these corts of things."

This can mean only that the Coalition is incapable of telling people how the GST will work, or they won't tell people how it will work.

Dr Hewson knows the GST will hit people in almost every aspect of their lives but he won't say so.

If the GST is so good for people, if it really is going to create jobs "from day one" why is Dr Hewson saying, "Trust me, I'll give you the details after the election."

John Hewson is sounding more and more like Jeff Kennett.

With Dr Hewson it's a case of vote now - pay later.

MELBOURNE  
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