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*Practice Group:*

*Antitrust,  
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## ACCC Enforces Carbon Tax Repeal Cost Savings

*Australia Antitrust, Competition and Trade Regulation Alert*

*By Murray Deakin*

**BRR** We're joined by Murray Deakin, who is a partner at K&L Gates. Murray the ACCC has warned that it will target any gas or electricity supplier not passing on savings from the abolition of the Carbon Tax to its consumers. What do companies need to do to make sure they are passing on the right savings?

**MD** Well Kate those suppliers of regulated goods, electricity, gas and in debtor gas need to quantify their Carbon Tax liabilities. They need to identify their Carbon Tax compliance cost, they need to assess whether they've been the beneficiary of any financial assistance whether from the Climate Change Authority or under the Clean Energy Technology Grants Program. And they need to adjust their prices having regard to those factors to fully pass on carbon tax cost savings which they have now enjoyed following the repeal of the Carbon Tax.

**BRR** And Murray what penalties will companies be looking at if they fail to comply?

**MD** They're quite severe Kate and that requires businesses to really focus on this issue for this transitional year and it is only one year but they do need to pass on those cost savings. If they fail to pass on cost savings associated with the repeal of the Carbon Tax they are liable to pay a penalty of 250% of what they fail to pass on, so it could be quite a significant impost.

**BRR** It certainly will Murray, thanks for joining us.

**MD** Thanks Kate.

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