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## Media Release

# Candidate stumbles again: out of touch on interest rates

Following her stumble on asylum seeker policy in her first public statement, Liberal candidate for Lindsay Fiona Scott has now made a gaffe on interest rates, said Federal Member for Lindsay, David Bradbury.

In an article in online news site The Punch today (<http://www.thepunch.com.au/articles/Election-2010-Meet-the-Kingmakers>), and in comments on television news broadcasts over the weekend, Fiona Scott incorrectly said there had been 'seven interest rate rises in a row'.

Interest rates have risen six times, not seven (<http://www.rba.gov.au/statistics/cash-rate.html>), but the most important point that Fiona Scott failed to mention was that interest rates are still lower today than they were when the Liberals were last in power.

"Far from being in touch with the realities of families paying a mortgage, Fiona Scott has shown that she doesn't even pay attention to the movements of interest rates," said Mr Bradbury.

"Once again, Fiona Scott has shown that she won't let the facts get in the way of her campaign spin.

"While I understand that many working people are doing it tough at the moment, the facts are that interest rates are lower today than when the Liberal Party left office.

"Both official interest rates and standard variable mortgage rates are now lower than they were when Tony Abbott and the Liberals were last in Government.

"When the Liberals were in Government, they promised mortgage-holders that they would keep interest rates at record lows, but they broke that promise and under the Liberal Government we saw ten interest rate rises in a row."

Tony Abbott and Fiona Scott yesterday visited a local family who have just moved into their new house to talk about interest rates. The house was reported to have cost \$760,000.

According to historical standard variable interest rates\*, a family paying off a mortgage of that size would be paying almost \$600 less on their monthly mortgage repayments now than when the Liberals were last in Government.

“Unfortunately, Tony Abbott and Fiona Scott failed to mention that on a mortgage of \$760,000 the monthly mortgage repayment would be almost \$600 less per month today compared to when Mr Abbott and the Liberals were last in government.

“If Tony Abbott and Fiona Scott want to talk about the cost of living pressures families in our community face, they should start by explaining why interest rates increased to their highest levels in a decade when the Liberals were last in office.

“The Gillard Government won’t make hollow promises about interest rates, but we will do everything we can to invest in infrastructure and make our economy productive to take pressure off inflation and interest rates.”

\*Sources: Australian Parliamentary Library Background Note, ‘Home Loan Interest Rates and Repayments’, November 2007, and The Age online at <http://www.theage.com.au/small-business/finance/gap-closes-between-fixed-variable-rates-20100623-ywrz.html>.