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OPINION

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Letters: Joseph Stiglitz, NAB, SMEs and Harold Mitchell

SMEs let down by sad lack of action

"Scott Morrison still has a fighting chance" (November 20) highlights voters' expectations that the Coalition focus on economic management including export promotion.

Innovation chief Bill Ferris argued a similar case, calling for support for high-growth small and medium enterprise (SME) exporters to be dramatically expanded through the Export Grant Scheme.

KPMG reported in 2015 that the economic activity stimulated by the program led to additional tax collections that virtually offset the direct cost of the program. It found productivity gains of seven to one.

In 2014 Trade Minister Andrew Robb reiterated the Coalition's pre-election promise "to progressively restore funding" to the program. Senator Simon Birmingham said at the time the Coalition had "a very strong commitment to the scheme". Yet despite the Coalition hailing it as the most successful SME program of the past 20 years, nothing has occurred since. When logic leaves the room, the voters soon follow.

Warren Cross

Wagstaffe, NSW