



*media release*

Tasmanian Liberals

**Will Hodgman MP**  
Leader of the State Opposition  
**Peter Gutwein MP**  
Liberal Member for Bass  
Monday August 11, 2008

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### ***Scottsdale visit***

Ahead of a visit to the Scottsdale region tomorrow, Leader of the State Opposition, Will Hodgman, has called on the Labor Government, both State and Federal, to end the waiting game and provide immediate assistance to the North-East community left devastated by the closure of the Tonganah sawmill.

Mr Hodgman will tomorrow visit the region with Liberal Member for Bass, Peter Gutwein, to meet with the Dorset Council and visit a number of local businesses in the area.

"We are outraged that the Scottsdale community is still none-the-wiser as to exactly what support it will receive from the State and Federal Governments, over a month since the closure of the sawmill was announced," Mr Hodgman said.

"Whilst there are a number of major developments that have been on the table for some time, the community deserves nothing less than immediate short term assistance to ensure that families are not forced to leave the North-East to find new jobs in other regions or interstate."

Liberal Member for Bass, Peter Gutwein, said there was also enthusiastic support in the community for a School of Forest Industries to be established at Scottsdale, of which the State Opposition has been a strong supporter and backed a feasibility study into at the 2006 state election.

"The State Opposition recognises the critical importance of the forest industry sector to the ongoing economic wellbeing of the North-East and the State as a whole, and the establishment of a School of Forest Industries would assist in up-skilling the workforce to meet changing needs," Mr Gutwein said.

Mr Gutwein said the State Opposition has had positive discussions about the School with the Dorset Council, and he hoped to continue these this week.

“The North-East is a robust community with a very bright future in areas such as forestry and agriculture, and notwithstanding the latest setback, the State Opposition is committed to working on positive strategies to enable the region to fulfil its full potential,” Mr Gutwein said.

“And in the longer-term, improved access to the North-East must be addressed to add value to proposals such as the School of Forest Industries, the region’s tourism appeal, agriculture and the ongoing value of forestry in the area.”

The State Opposition also called on the Federal Government to guarantee that not one cent of the terminated Auspine assistance package will leave the Scottsdale community.

**For further information or comment please call Kristy Mays – 0407 503 910**

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