



media release

Tasmanian Liberals

Will Hodgman MP
Leader of the State Opposition
Peter Gutwein MP
Shadow Treasurer
Tuesday August 12, 2008

Supporting the Scottsdale community

Positive, short and long term solutions for the Scottsdale region, including the potential for a School of Forest Industries, will be discussed when the Leader of the State Opposition, Will Hodgman, and Shadow Treasurer, Peter Gutwein, meet with the members of the Dorset Council, local businesses and members of the community today.

The State Opposition has repeatedly called on both the State and Federal Governments to provide immediate assistance to the North-East community left devastated by the loss of 145 jobs following the closure of the Tonganah sawmill, representing more than 5% of Scottsdale's population and around \$5 million in lost wages.

"It is outrageous that the Scottsdale community is still waiting to hear what, if any, assistance it will receive more than a month since the closure was announced," Mr Hodgman said.

"The Federal assistance package, reported to be announced tomorrow, must provide immediate funding for a job creation program to help keep former employees and their families in the community."

Mr Hodgman and Mr Gutwein will meet with the Dorset Council, who is yet to receive a response from either the State or Federal Government in relation to their request for a \$3.3 million short and medium term job creation program, as well as visiting a number of local businesses.

Mr Gutwein said they are also hoping to continue discussions with the Council about the establishment of a School of Forest Industries, something which the State Opposition has been advocating for some time.

“The North-East is a robust community with an exciting future and we are committed to working with the Council to formulate both short and long term strategies to enable the region to reach its full potential,” Mr Gutwein said.

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

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