



**JULIE COLLINS MP
SHADOW MINISTER FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND LOCAL
GOVERNMENT
SHADOW MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT SERVICES
MEMBER FOR FRANKLIN**

**SENATOR ANNE URQUHART
LABOR SENATOR FOR TASMANIA**

MEDIA RELEASE

LIBERALS' RE-ANNOUNCEMENT TOUR HITS DEVONPORT

Liberal Member for Braddon, Brett Whiteley must explain why he is taking credit and re-announcing a project that was funded and committed to by Labor more than 12 months ago.

Shadow Minister for Regional Development, Julie Collins said the \$1 million grant to enable a \$10 million packaging facility upgrade at Costa Exchange in Devonport was a major part of the previous Labor Government's Tasmanian Jobs and Growth Plan.

"While it is great this project isn't being cut, like so many others by the Abbott Government, Mr Whiteley must explain why it has taken so long to deliver," Ms Collins said.

"This project will support 40 new full time jobs in Devonport at a time when they are so desperately needed.

"But these are 40 new jobs that would already be on the ground if the Abbott Government had delivered the funds more than 12 months ago.

"Today's announcement is yet another example of Mr Whiteley and the Abbott Government putting politics above the people of regional Tasmania.

"The Abbott Government has already cut \$250 million from regional Australia funding and ripped a further \$900 million from the budgets of local governments across the country.

"Instead of trying to claim credit for Labor's good work, Mr Whiteley should stand up for North West Tasmania against his Government's Budget of broken promises."

Senator Anne Urquhart congratulated Costa Exchange for their hard work and their commitment to continue to invest in the region.

"I congratulate Costa's for their positive investments in horticulture and the supply chain right across the North West Coast. They are an example of the possibilities that we must continue to enable and encourage in Tasmania.

"It's now time for Mr Whiteley to stop using these businesses' as political pawns and actually show some leadership.

"Mr Whiteley seems very happy to attend sod turnings and more than comfortable claiming credit for Labor projects, but his silence has been deafening when it comes to creating new job opportunities for North West Tasmania.

"Mr Whiteley is simply seeking credit for Labor projects to distract people from his Government's funding cuts to regional Australia.

"Instead of creating distractions, Mr Whiteley should be showing leadership by helping protect the Renewable Energy Target which is a job-creating policy – with some 200 jobs to be created at Granville Harbour alone.

"He should be calling for the reinstatement of the Local Employment Coordinator for North West Tasmania, just like the Abbott Government did for Geelong."

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