



**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

THE TIME FOR ACTION ON WEST COAST TASMANIA IS NOW

The Leader of the Opposition, Bill Shorten, has written to the Prime Minister to seek support on Federal Government assistance for the West Coast of Tasmania, following his recent visit to Queenstown.

Shadow Minister for Employment Services, Julie Collins said Federal Labor has developed an action plan to rebuild and reinvigorate the region.

“The Abbott Government can make a real difference by backing this plan and giving the people of the West Coast the tools to succeed,” Ms Collins said.

“The Abbott Government’s signature jobs programme for Tasmania has generated just 89 positions over the last nine months when its target was to create 2000 over two years.

“Tony Abbott must take responsibility and recognise that their inaction is hurting the West Coast community. Our plan shows there are things that can be done immediately to provide assistance.

“Support to re-train workers who have been displaced as a result of the closure of Mt Lyell copper mine in July and to prepare for the impending closure of Henty gold mine must be a priority.”

Senator Anne Urquhart said the lack of leadership on the West Coast from local Liberal member Brett Whitely meant it was time for the Prime Minister to step in.

"We're focused on investing in the region, increasing opportunities and actually supporting our job seekers," Senator Urquhart said.

"The clear message from the West Coast community is that the Renewable Energy Target is a job-creating policy – with some 200 jobs to be created at Granville Harbour alone.

"The Prime Minister needs to stop meddling with the RET and provide certainty to investors.

"We've seen the Government reinstate the Local Employment Coordinator in Geelong, it's time they did the same for the people of the West Coast."

FEDERAL LABOR'S ACTION PLAN FOR THE WEST COAST

1. Reinstating the Local Employment Coordinator for North West/Northern Tasmania
2. Providing immediate training opportunities for the people of the West Coast
3. Provide certainty for the Renewable Energy Target (RET)
4. Developing a tourism and industry promotion plan for the region
5. Overhaul the failing Tasmanian Jobs Program
6. Provide seed funding for job creating projects on the West Coast in partnership with the local community

FRIDAY, 2 OCTOBER 2014