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SHADOW MINISTER FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND LOCAL
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SHADOW MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT SERVICES
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MEDIA RELEASE

WHITELEY'S THOUGHT BUBBLE WOULD BE A DISASTER FOR JOB SEEKERS

The Shadow Minister for Employment Services, Julie Collins, said the Member for Braddon Brett Whiteley's idea to open up Work for the Dole to small businesses would be a disaster for North West Tasmanian job seekers looking for paid employment.

Ms Collins said Mr Whiteley's plan would see less North West job seekers being employed in paid work, as small businesses would simply fill job vacancies with Work for the Dole participants.

"Mr Whiteley's plan would be another broken promise from the Abbott Government as it has repeatedly guaranteed that Work for the Dole positions would not replace paid positions," Ms Collins said.

Ms Collins said Mr Whiteley's comments come on top of revelations last week that only 40 job seekers have been matched with Work for the Dole placements in Tasmania after the Abbott Government was six weeks late putting in place a coordinator for the scheme.

"Is Mr Whiteley's thought bubble an admission that there won't be enough places for the 17,000 Tasmanian job seekers who are eligible for the Abbott Government's expanded Work for the Dole scheme?" Ms Collins said.

"In a continuation of his typically lazy approach, it appears Mr Whiteley's only solution to solving the North West Coast's unemployment problems is - Work for the Dole.

"Instead of making life more difficult for job seekers, Mr Whiteley and the Government's attention should be on creating more jobs for North West Tasmanians."

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