



**Senator for Tasmania**  
*Putting Tasmania First*  
Jacqui Lambie

## Media Statement

11.5.15

### Lambie votes with Crossbenchers and Government to protect building/construction industry from thugs and corruption

Independent Senator for Tasmania Jacqui Lambie has delivered a speech (see attached) and voted with the government today to support the sunset clause in the Construction Industry Amendment (Protecting Witnesses) Bill 2015.

The Construction Industry Amendment (Protecting Witnesses) Bill 2015 amends the Fair Work (Building Industry) Act 2012 to extend the period where the Fair Work Building Industry Inspectorate Director can apply to a nominated Administrative Appeals Tribunal presidential member for an examination notice, by two years.

The current Director's capacity to act in this role will expire May 31, 2015.

However, Senator Lambie urged the Government to delay the Legislation forming the Australian Building and Construction Commissioner (ABCC) until the Trade Union Royal Commission results, or the Cabinet in Confidence Report by Nigel Hadgkiss were released.

“What is the level of corruption, crime, dysfunction in the Building Industry and is there an involvement of organised criminals in the Australian Building Industry?”

“The best independent authority today to make that call and make those findings is the Royal Commission, which hands down their findings later this year,” Senator Lambie said.

Senator Lambie preferred to wait until that time to discuss the Legislation in front of them.

“The acknowledgement of organised criminal activity in the Australian Building and Construction Industry today by the Royal Commissioner in my mind would justify extraordinary action and legislation,” Senator Lambie said.

Senator Lambie has also put in a request to the Victorian Premier, Daniel Andrews, requesting the Nigel Hadgkiss Report be released, despite being a “secret” report.

The Senator also called on the support of Liberal Senator for Tasmania Eric Abetz to encourage the Victorian Government to release the Hadgkiss Report, which would confirm whether there is a link between organised criminal gangs and building a construction industry in Australia, specifically in Victoria.

“The report given to the Victorian Government in 2013 warned of illegal behaviour during the Grocon dispute was the ‘tip of the iceberg’ in an industry where ‘unlawful activity extends beyond unlawful industrial relations conduct into serious criminal activity,’” Senator Lambie said.

“I’ve had conversations with people who say they contributed to the secret Hadgkiss Report and they’ve confirmed to me that report would be damaging to both the Labor and Liberal governments.

“And that report is a tipping point and pivotal to the debate on introduction of a strong regulator,” Senator Lambie said.