



## MEDIA RELEASE

### **Sawmill jobs benefits to flow statewide**

**31 January 2018**

**Guy Barnett, Minister for Resources**

Yesterday's announcement by Hermal Group that they are establishing a \$190 million plantation-based sawmill and production plant has been widely welcomed for the hundreds of direct and thousands of indirect jobs it will create.

The employment and economic benefits are set to flow well beyond Burnie and spread throughout the state and the forest industry.

Today I visited the ARBRE Forest Training Hub in Launceston, which is already experiencing an upswing in the industry which Project Manager Colin McCulloch says is the strongest in years.

Mr McCulloch expects yesterday's announcement to result in many more jobs in forest harvesting and haulage, as well as jobs servicing and supporting the new mill.

The announcement has also received the strong support of the Forest Industries Association of Tasmania, the Australian Forest Products Association, the Burnie Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Burnie City Council.

---

It seems the only two people who can't bring themselves to be happy about the addition of 221 jobs in Burnie are Bob Brown and Labor Shadow Treasurer Scott Bacon.

It says a lot about Labor and Mr Bacon that his immediate reaction was to sulk that he wasn't consulted on the decision.

That's despite the fact that the decision was made before we went into caretaker mode. Labor didn't have a problem with this process when in 2010 they announced a deal with Betfair during an election campaign.\*

\* <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2010-02-22/betfair-tax-breaks/339178>

*Labor has revealed that before it went into caretaker mode, it made an agreement with the company half-owned by James Packer.*

---