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Guy Barnett, Minister for Resources

Fighting Back Against Greens' Attacks on New Mining Projects

The Hodgman Liberal Government is the strongest and most consistent supporter of Tasmania's mining industry.

It has become all too common to see new investment and new jobs delayed and threatened by the dishonest tactics of Green front groups, who will do anything to frustrate mining development.

Rather than only seeking to ensure our environmental standards are upheld, these groups are using the courts to deter investors and then boasting of their success.

This week we will introduce legislation that will help to limit their grounds for appeal.

In a key amendment to the Mineral Resources Development Act, applicants for mining leases will no longer be required to provide environmental information.

Since separate environmental approvals from the Environmental Protection Authority or relevant planning authority are needed to conduct mining, requiring the same information to gain a mining lease is an unnecessary duplication.

Worse, it provides another opportunity for a Green front group to hold up a project by challenging a Minister's decision to grant a mining lease.

Our amendment will have the dual benefits of ending an avenue for frivolous appeals and cutting red tape.

This is one of a raft of changes we have developed over the past 12 months through consultation with key industry stakeholders, including the Tasmanian Minerals and Energy Council.

Other amendments will also help to better support the mining industry to create jobs by reducing the regulatory burden and streamlining processes.

We make no apology for backing mining by supporting new investment and new jobs – our number one priority.