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Guy Barnett, Minister for Primary Industries and Water

Labor sides with extremist protestors

While the Hodgman Liberal Government and the vast majority of hard working Australians condemned the disruptive and threatening actions of animal rights extremists yesterday, Labor's Josh Willie came out approving their actions.

Joined at the hip, once again, Labor and the Greens support these out of touch groups who are promoting the unlawful invasion of farms and businesses, endangering workers, adding unnecessary risks and costs and impacting hardworking families.

Labor's lack of support for our farmers, for jobs and workers' rights to earn a living is appalling. They are anti-jobs, anti-business and their position on this issue shows they do not support regional Tasmania.

In contrast to Labor, this Government recognises agriculture is a key pillar of the Tasmanian economy and the Hodgman Liberal Government is committed to ensuring Tasmanians can go to work and run their business in a safe manner free from threats and disruption.

We make no apology for seeking to protect the right of workers to earn a living free from disruption, with legislation to be introduced later in the year to amend the *Workplaces (Protection from Protesters) Act 2014*.

Tasmania has extremely high animal welfare standards. In 2015 this government strengthened and modernised the *Animal Welfare Act*, increasing the penalty for aggravated cruelty to up to five years and strengthening penalties across the board to send a strong message and increase deterrence against acts of animal cruelty.