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Guy Barnett, Minister for Primary Industries and Water

## Protection for Tasmanian workers and their families

In a monumental win for Tasmanian businesses, workers and their families, the Hodgman majority Liberal Government welcomes the passing of the Workplaces (Protection from Protesters) Amendment Bill 2019 through the House of Assembly.

This Bill passed through the House despite the best efforts of Labor and the Greens spreading misinformation, creating fear in the community and wasting Parliamentary time and resources by shamelessly dragging debate out for more than 13 hours.

To be very clear, the Bill does not stop any Tasmanian from peaceful, lawful protests or speaking out on any matter.

These laws are needed following an upsurge in business disruption caused by organised actions across the country, much of it unfairly directed at farmers.

In opposing this Bill, not only has Tasmanian Labor abandoned workers by uniting with the Greens and putting the rights of extremist protesters above the rights of law abiding Tasmanian workers, they have abandoned the values of their own party.

Labor governments and MPs across the country have backed similar legislation to protect workers' right to work without being threatened or impeded.

Only the Tasmanian Labor party are opposing these laws.

Unfortunately, this is what we have come to expect from a party which is out of touch with hard working Tasmanians, devoid of leadership and without direction.

The Government is strongly committed to the right of people to protest, but not at the expense of the right of workers to earn a living or the right of business to operate safely and free from interference and disruption.