



Tasmanian Government

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Stopping activists in their tracks

We need this legislation to combat radical protesters in Tasmania, says **Guy Barnett**

DURING the greatest health and economic challenge in more than a generation, jobs are more important than ever. Every job counts.

This government respects the right of every Tasmanian to protest lawfully and we are also committed to protecting your right to work.

That is why the Tasmanian Liberal government introduced legislation to ensure that we can all support our families by going to work and running local business in a safe manner free from threats and disruption.

The Workplace Protection Bill, which complements legislation passed by the Australian government, gives effect to the fundamental principle that our laws should protect people undertaking lawful business activities and the people who work for them.

Through this Bill, the government is delivering

“ THE GOVERNMENT IS DELIVERING BUSINESSES, WORKERS AND THEIR FAMILIES PROTECTION AGAINST TRESPASS DESIGNED TO DELIBERATELY IMPEDE BUSINESS ACTIVITY

family farm is their home; they are concerned about the safety of their families and employees, and they need protection against organised disruption of their business.

Tasmanian Chamber of Commerce and Industry chief executive Michael Bailey stated the TCCI supported absolutely the right of people



to protest lawfully, but not to conduct

Tasmanian businesses, workers and their families protection against intentional trespass designed to deliberately impede business activity.

These laws are needed following a significant increase in militant protests involving aggressive and threatening behaviour that is stopping people from working and costing businesses tens of thousands of dollars.

These actions are designed to create maximum distress and disruption, while attracting media attention, which in turn drives donations from inner-city benefactors in Sydney and Melbourne.

Britton Timbers managing director Shawn Britton recently condemned the actions of extremist radicals from the Bob Brown Foundation.

“The protesters are ... crippling economic activity at a time following COVID when we can least afford it.”

Business groups, farmers, forestry, mining and fishing sectors are unified in support of this appropriate balance between the right to free speech and the right to work.

Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association chief executive Peter Skillern points out that for most farmers, the



Guy Barnett

economic terrorism.

“We have seen vegan protesters invade abattoirs,

forest protesters chained inside machinery — dangerous for both the protesters and those workers trying to extricate them,” Mr Bailey said.

“This is not fair, safe or easily managed under current legislation. Tasmanian business and their workers should be able to operate lawfully without trespassers interfering with their work.”

I say, enough with the party politics, let’s work together.

Labor governments across Australia have supported and passed similar legislation with the NSW, Queensland, South Australian and West Australian governments moving to tighten laws.

I applaud Labor’s condemnation of the Bob Brown Foundation’s recent radical protest action, and call on the Labor members of the Legislative Council to think of Tasmanian workers and their families, and support our Bill.

Lyons Liberal MP Guy Barnett is Primary Industries, Water and Resources Minister.

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