

Guy Barnett MP

Minister for State Development, Construction and Housing
Minister for Energy and Renewables
Minister for Veterans Affairs
Liberal Member for Lyons



Tasmanian Government **Media Release**

25 August 2022

Guy Barnett, Minister for State Development, Construction and Housing

Keeping Tasmanian workers safe in their workplace

The Tasmanian Liberal Government has consistently fought to protect Tasmanian workers and allow them to go to work safely, without threat from extremists who invade workplaces and endanger employees.

This is the purpose of the Government's Workplace Protection legislation and we will continue to support the Bill's passage through the Parliament as long as it delivers better protections for workers and their workplaces.

Intimidating, threatening and endangering employees will never be acceptable. We've been elected three times with policies designed to protect the rights of workers and to deter unlawful interference with workplaces.

The Tasmanian Government respects the right to protest and every Tasmanian's right to free speech, but it is also important this is not at the expense of the right to lawfully work or run a business.

We are amending the Police Offences Act to ensure that our police are able to better protect workers and businesses through strengthening trespass and obstruction laws.

We will continue to monitor very closely interferences with businesses and whether more needs to be done to provide a deterrent from unlawful and unsafe protest activity, including the consequences of Labor not supporting efforts to stop those seeking to obstruct the entry to businesses.

The Government is disappointed Labor has again let down workers by not supporting this Bill.

It would seem that instead of throwing its support behind Tasmanian workers, Labor has again preferred to stand side-by-side with the Greens and the Bob Brown Foundation.