

FORESTRY (REBUILDING THE FOREST INDUSTRY) BILL 2014

ADDRESS IN REPLY
Guy Barnett 8 May 2014

[3.00 p.m.]

Mr BARNETT (Lyons) - Madam Speaker, I stand in support of the Minister for Resources and the bill before us and what it will do and deliver to help rebuild the forest industry. It will inject confidence and investment in the forest industry. One of the key things that it will be doing is tearing up the forest agreement, the sham forest peace deal, that the previous Labor-Greens Government brought into existence, and what did that do? What do we know about that? We know that we have lost \$700 million per year from this state because of the killing-off of the forest industry, the job-destroying sham forest peace deal under the Labor-Greens Government.

They may not think that is much money but that is big money; in particular it hurts in rural and regional Tasmania. Thousands of jobs have been lost. It was once worth \$1.4 billion to the Tasmanian economy but under Labor and the Greens it has been cut in half. That is what has happened. It is a 50 per cent cut and what we need to do is give confidence to rebuild this once mighty industry. Under Labor and the Greens the country sawmills have been closed.

In the Lyons electorate, for example, look at St Helens, at Avoca, at Triabunna. You promised in your agreement that the Triabunna woodchip mill would reopen and it has not happened. You should say sorry to the people of Triabunna.

What about Deloraine? What about the people in Deloraine and the communities affected there? What about Longford and Campbell Town, where those sawmills have closed in recent years. What about them? What do you say to the people who worked in those sawmills? What about their families? Let us say sorry to them. Let us have a collective sorry on behalf of the members on the other side and apologise and say this is one way to rebuild. We will support your bill, Government. We thank you for bringing it in. What about the people in the Tasman Peninsula, likewise?

This bill will ensure that there are no more lock-ups. Under the previous government under that agreement they wanted to lock up over half the state.

Ms Petrusma - Shame.

Mr BARNETT - Shame is right, member for Franklin. Some 52 per cent you wanted to lock up; I remind members that is more than half the state. There will be no more lock-ups under this Government. We will be future-proofing this industry. We will give them options for the future. We will give confidence and opportunities for investment. Sovereign risk will go. We have a majority Liberal Government, led by Will Hodgman, and that sovereign risk is gone. There is an opportunity now for investors to come to Tasmania. They know they have a majority Liberal Government. They know we support growth, development and jobs. They know there is opportunity there.

This bill will deliver a science-based approach. When I was in the Senate one of the first bills that I supported in 2003 was the Regional Forest Agreement. That delivered certainty. It delivered resource security across Australia in the forest industry and that is what this bill will give us the options to do. We will work with the Federal Government, Leader of the Opposition.

This will be based on science. It will not be based on political vision of the Labor Party to stay in government with the support of the Greens. That is what will not be happening. Under our majority Liberal Government led by Will Hodgman it will be based on science and we will deliver a terrific outcome.

Let me summarise. We will be saying no more lock-ups. There will be rebuilding of the forestry-based industry based on innovation and science. It will secure the opportunity for mills and manufacturing to grow. There will be transport companies which will benefit, silviculture, there will be investments in timber and timber products. We talked about specialty timber and the minister has outlined the option there. The other thing to do and remember is under our Government there will be a crackdown on illegal protestors. They have been encouraged to come to this state by the Greens, by others, by the Labor Party and there will be no more illegal protests and workplace invasions under our Government and that legislation will be here shortly. Be assured.

I have a question for the member for Lyons, David Llewellyn. What is his position? Will he be supporting this bill, because prior to the election he had a position which was totally at odds with the Greens and with his own party. What was his position? He used this in his campaign. What about Bob Gordon, the former Labor candidate? Same position - he castigated the Greens. What about his position? What about Dr Julian Amos? Was that new Labor or was it old Labor or was it Greens-Labor? Was it a totally divided Labor? Who is it and what are they going to do? What is David Llewellyn going to do with respect to this bill? I would like to know his position and hear what it is. It is very important that he puts his position on the record and we are calling on Labor and those members opposite to support the bill.

I have been advised the member for Bass did not support the sham forest peace deal. I think your other colleagues did not, so four and one against, that was your position. So why would you not support our position now? You took a position that you did not support the Labor-Greens bill, the sham forest peace deal, and now you are not supporting our bill. It seems to be contradictory.