

MEDIA RELEASE

RUTH FORREST MLC
PO BOX 104
WYNYARD TAS 7325
TEL: 03 6443 8600
FAX: 03 6443 8603

MLC for Murchison, Ruth Forrest is concerned greatly by the news of the withdrawal of Qantas services from the Burnie airport and is extremely disappointed to see yet another threat to tourism and business on the North West and West Coasts.

"This is particularly bad news at a time when many tourism operators are already feeling the effects of a downturn in tourism and the recent demise of Spirit of Tasmanian 3" Ms Forrest stated.

"Whilst the decision is commercial and based on current passenger numbers and increasing fuel costs, the impact on this region will be significant not only for tourism but also for business travel to the North West and West Coasts" Ms Forrest said.

"I encourage residents of the North West to continue to support this airport that continues to be serviced by Regional Airlines (REX), as fuel, parking, time and other costs will continue to make travelling to Launceston a not particularly cost effective option in many cases" Ms Forrest said.

"With the expansion and further development of the Wynyard flying school and the current upgrading of the Burnie/Wynyard terminal building, this is a major blow to the region" Ms Forrest stated.

15th June 2006

For further information, please phone 0419 879 524.