



MEDIA RELEASE

RUTH FORREST MLC

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PRESSURE NOW ON FEDS TO DELIVER HEALTH

Murchison MLC Ruth Forrest responded today to State Cabinet's decision to reluctantly accept the Commonwealth's offer to take over the Mersey Hospital. Ms Forrest agreed with the State Government that the take over does not represent good public policy.

"This take over is in contradiction to the considerable research conducted into health services in the region over many years" Ms Forrest stated.

Ms Forrest stressed that funds freed up from the Federal take over must be reinvested in the North West of the State, including at the Rosebery and Ouse Hospital.

"The announcement that Dr Heather Wellington will review the Clinical Services Plan to reflect the removal of the Mersey Hospital from State Public Health Services is welcome however I call on the State Government to ensure that at the very least a stand alone state of the art day surgery is built in Burnie with oncology and renal dialysis services expanded" said Ms Forrest.

"At a time of great uncertainty for the Devonport and Latrobe communities and Mersey staff I urge both the State and Federal Government to ensure that these communities are provided a safe and effective health service" the Member for Murchison said.

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For further information phone 0419 879 524