



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

## **Media Release**

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### **Dismay over future of Rosebery Hospital**

MURCHISON MLC, Ruth Forrest has expressed dismay at revelations by the Premier that if the mining industry wants to keep the Rosebery Hospital open with an overnight stay capacity, they would be expected to cough up.

The Premier, as Minister for Economic Development and Resources has told State Budget Estimates hearings any decision made regarding local health services at Rosebery will not impact on the mining industries capacity to attract and retain skilled workers.

“Given there is a significant skills shortage in Tasmania and the mining industry is going through a major revitalisation, you would think the Government would do everything in its power to ensure the industry remains competitive and able to attract the much needed skilled workers” Ms Forrest said.

“It is often the first question asked by prospective employees, especially in the mining sector, whether there are adequate hospital services nearby.

“However, the Premier has responded by stating the industry should look at working with the Government in the good times to fund and meet the health needs of the community, because the Government has provided some support in the ‘not good’ times in the past.”

Ms Forrest said the comments come despite the payment of over \$33 million in mineral royalties each year and the fact that the mining industry already provide significant support to the local hospital.

“The mining industry is vital to the economic prosperity of Tasmania and to suggest the industry should ‘cough up’ to ensure health services are continued at Rosebery is unrealistic and naïve and ignores the significant financial contribution to State coffers from mineral royalties” Ms Forrest said.

**ENDS**

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