



# MEDIA RELEASE

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## MINING INDUSTRY REGULATION SELECT COMMITTEE SUPPORTED IN SPITE OF GOVERNMENT CLAIM IT IS NOT NEEDED

Tasmania's mining industry has grown to be one of the most significant industries in our State with substantial economic flow on benefits for the State Government.

Murchison MLC Ruth Forrest successfully moved to establish a select committee to review the regulatory framework of the Tasmanian mining industry, to ensure the industry has a framework that is meaningful and enhances workplace standards and safety for workers.

The establishment of this select committee has the support of the mining industry, however the Labour Government attempted to dismiss the Member for Murchison's motion on the grounds that it is not needed. Leader of the Government, Doug Parkinson MLC told Parliament "If the House does approve this committee it will involve the tying up of a large range of resources, including financial, with a prospect of no positive outcomes whatsoever."

"The committee will inquire into standards and systems, the current regulatory framework and the role of workplace standards. It is not about culpability or inquiring into tragic incidents that have occurred in the past, rather the committee will investigate the most appropriate regulatory framework for the entire Tasmanian industry" Ms Forrest stated.

"The committee will also consider the regulatory frameworks and systems that are in place in other parts of the country, particularly Western Australia and Queensland which both have very strong mining industries. In these times of a very mobile work force with workers often moving between jurisdictions, this is most appropriate" Ms Forrest said.

Ms Forrest further stated the responsibility for site safety is another area needing to be more fully investigated to ensure that there is no deficiency in the lines of accountability. Stating that those who have responsibility for safety also include those who control the purse strings and thus provide the necessary funds and resources to support and implement meaningful safety management systems.

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