



# MEDIA RELEASE

RUTH FORREST MLC

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## Millions sitting on a desk...

Murchison MLC Ruth Forrest today questioned the Federal Government's inaction and "go slow attitude" over funding for regional community projects awaiting assessment under the Federal Government's Regional Partnerships program.

Regional Partnership funding for Tasmanian projects is coordinated through the Area Consultative Committee in Tasmania with recommendations sent to Canberra for final assessment.

"I understand through communication with proponents that applications for many community projects of high importance to regional areas, appear to still be awaiting assessment from Canberra, with a backlog of several months in some cases" Ms Forrest stated.

"Whilst I appreciate the change in Government brings a change in Minister's but surely things should not "stand still" to the detriment of regional areas."

"Projects that have received approval through the Tasmanian assessment process, need to be finally assessed in Canberra and when approved, the much needed funding provided to the relevant projects. This is particularly important as millions of dollars from other sources of funding have been committed to these projects pending final federal approval" said Ms Forrest.

"This 'go slow' attitude of the Federal Government is adversely impacting on regional development in many regional areas in Tasmania and causing uncertainty for many proposed key developments" said Ms Forrest.

Ms Forrest estimates that the total value of projects waiting assessment in Canberra would be in the vicinity of 5 million dollars. This figure represents 40% of the value of projects that would equate to over \$12 million in investment for Tasmania, with many more currently undergoing assessment within Tasmania.

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For further information phone Ruth Forrest MLC on 0419 879 524