



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Minister Green draws a blank over impacts of mining tax for Tasmania

Media Release

1st July 2010

Minister for Resources, Bryan Green has confirmed his support for the Federal RSPT mining tax but appears to have no understanding of the proposed Federal Government mining tax or its implications for the North-West and West coast's of Tasmania according to Murchison MLC, Ruth Forrest.

Ms Forrest said when asked about the implications of the proposed mining tax in Legislative Council Budget estimates hearings, Minister Green appeared to have no knowledge of what it meant for his region or how the current proposal would impact on local mining operations.

"Surely as Minister, Mr Green would have investigated what the tax may or may not mean for the North-West and West coasts of Tasmania," Ms Forrest said.

"Then when asked if he supported the current royalty regime in Tasmania, the Minister said he did."

Minister Green stated that he believed that Tasmanians were receiving appropriate return for the resources we own under Tasmania's current mineral royalty regime.

"Well, you can't have it both ways, either you support the current Tasmanian regime or you support the proposed Federal tax and taxing point which is likely to put a cloud over mining operations that value add in Tasmania such as Grange Resources and the Wynyard based TAM silica processing plant."

"Instead it would appear, as a good party man, he is willing to tow the line, regardless of what it means for his region, whilst supporting a contradictory view that Tasmania is getting good value from our resources whilst supporting the Federal Government who have said consistently that Australians should get more for these resources."

Ms Forrest said she was deeply concerned at the Ministers apparent lack of understanding on the issue of mining tax and the implications for Tasmania, having spoken to only one company and made arrangements to speak to one other.

"Given that Minister Green is from the North-West Coast and the fact that the mining industry is a key component of the wealth and prosperity of Tasmania, would expect him to take the time to look into this matter.

Ms Forrest said it was not good enough for the Minister to lie down and do nothing, regardless of his political colours he needs to fight and fight hard for his region.

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