

MEDIA RELEASE

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THE BUSINESS OF BETFAIR

Legislative Councillor Ruth Forrest stated that whilst she remains undecided as to how she will vote on the gaming legislation to go before the Upper House this week, to licence betting exchanges, there are many good arguments being provided from both sides of the debate and from all the various racing codes and other interested bodies.

“I have heard strong arguments on both sides of this debate – and I am not fully convinced either way”, stated Ms Forrest.

Ms Forrest indicated that she had been briefed by a delegation from Betfair and whilst she is still deep in her deliberations she did indicate to the party that if successful, the location of the Betfair operations including a call centre and IT technology should be considered seriously for the North West Coast.

“North West Tasmania has shown the rest of Tasmania what it is capable of supporting business such as Caterpillar Elphinstone, William Adams and Vestas to name a few. If Betfair is to proceed then I can think of no better place to have its operations based from, especially as it will provide 150 direct, and in-excess of 300 indirect jobs in the next two years” stated Ms Forrest.

Betfair have indicated they are confident that Tasmania can provide the necessary IT infrastructure and expertise within Tasmania and have stated that the Bass Link cable is an important part of this. “As the Bass Link cable comes into Northern Tasmania, wouldn't it make more sense to locate the operations in the north rather than the south, especially when Burnie/Wynyard airport is only one hour from Melbourne and has twelve flights per day” Ms Forrest said.

“Of course there are many other factors to be considered in formulating my decision, however I have put this suggestion to the Betfair delegation and consider the location of Betfair's Southern Hemisphere head quarters could factor in my decision” said the member for Murchison.

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For further information, please phone 0419 879 524.