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Mine safety legislation overdue, job not done yet

The release of long overdue mine safety legislation today is only one step towards ensuring mine safety in Tasmania.

Mining is an important industry which contributes significantly to the Tasmanian economy but it is also an inherently dangerous industry which does need to be properly regulated.

In the last ten years there have been five mine safety deaths. There have also been a number of damning reports released, including coronial reports and a report from a Parliamentary Inquiry, highlighting the deficiencies in the current legislation applicable to mining in Tasmania and a past history of gross under-manning of the Mining Inspectorate.

We will look closely at the legislation when it is introduced into Parliament. However, we have seen in the past that one of the key failings of this Government is poor resourcing and inadequate enforcement and scrutiny.

If the Government is to fix the obvious problems in the mining industry it is going to have to make sure that Workplace Standards Tasmania and the Mining Inspectorate have enough staff and resources to make sure that the job is done properly.

There is a lot more work that needs to be done to make sure that Tasmania's miners are as safe as they possibly can be.

For further information or comment please call Brad Nowland – 0439 614 893