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MEDIA RELEASE

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Labor locks in promise for native forestry armageddon

Labor have locked in the promise to shut down native forestry in Tasmania by 2027 and revisit one of the greatest policy disasters in living memory – the sham forest industry death deal.

Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Water Resource Richard Colbeck said Tasmanians have a clear choice when it comes to forestry jobs for regional Tasmania.

Assistant Minister Colbeck: “Labor’s leadership have locked in a promise to shut down native forestry in Tasmania by 2027 and seek to take Tasmanians back to the dark old days of the Labor-Green sham forest industry death deal.

“Labor’s National Conference voted to bind the Labor Caucus to reinstating the disastrous sham forest deal which collapsed Tasmania’s forest industry in 2012 and destroyed more than 4,000 jobs.

“Justine Keay and Labor remain captured by Green ideology, and the Wilderness Society campaigners who now seek to become Labor Ministers are determined to lock up Tasmania’s resources as they tried to do in 2013.

“Both the Abbott Government in 2013 and the Tasmanian Liberal Government in 2014 came to power in a landslide by promising to rip up the sham forest peace deal and have delivered exactly that.

“Since then confidence has rebounded, production is up, exports are booming, there is no spare machinery capacity, jobs are growing and Tasmania forest industry is attracting investment from around the nation and the world.

“Tasmanians are completely justified in asking themselves how many times they have to send Labor a message on forestry: we don’t want lock ups, we don’t want the death of native forestry, and we don’t want to go back to being ruled by Green ideology.

“Tasmanians have moved on, they know that our forests are well managed and they have rejected the deceit of Tony Burke and his Green mates – Justine Keay should do the same.

“The sham forest peace deal is nothing short of a policy armageddon for the native forest industry in Tasmania and Labor have once again proven they have learned nothing in 5 years of Opposition.

“It is time to send Justine Keay and Labor another message: no lock ups, no job losses, hands off Tasmania!”

Labor's National Conference passed the motion: 'Labor will continue to support the implementation of the conditions of the Tasmanian Forestry Agreement (TFA) as a future pathway for the forest industry in Tasmania. This provides resource security for the iconic special timbers industry, under agreed terms. Labor supports this as a broad industry plan to achieve the outcomes from the TFA'.

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