



Senator the Hon Richard Colbeck

Liberal Senator for Tasmania

MEDIA RELEASE

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**** AFL Steering Committee Disconnected from Community ****

- AFL continues with their “ivory tower” approach to the future of Tasmanian footy
- NW Coast unable to field TSL side for next season while remaining clubs seek urgent meeting with AFL Tas boss

In a sign of the increasing disconnect between the AFL and the many Tasmanians who love the game, Gillon McLachlan’s new steering committee met far from the people they seek to provide solutions to.

“It was telling that while Tasmania’s State League footy club Presidents met in Hobart last night, the AFL steering committee deigned to meet in Melbourne to decide their fate,” Senator Richard Colbeck said.

“If the AFL is serious about the health of the game in Tassie they’ve got to appoint people with some real skin in the game, who know the grassroots issues we’re facing here.”

In a flying visit in March the AFL Chief Gillon McLachlan announced a steering committee on the future of Tasmania but neglected to appoint any members based in Tasmania other than AFL insiders.

After the clubs’ meeting last night, Julie Kay from Lauderdale Football Club spoke to the media. “Strategically it was probably a poor decision not having a local person, someone who’s been involved in football in Tasmania either right now or in the past. They would have been able to contribute a great deal in terms of the cultural feeling in Tasmania particularly,” she said.

Concerned that the AFL approach was becoming increasingly dysfunctional, Senator Colbeck urged Gillon McLachlan to consider expanding the steering committee.

“Julie Kay is right and there are plenty of people here with strong connection to football and the community would be only too happy to assist.”

“We cannot have the future of Tassie footy decided in the ivory tower in Melbourne.”

ENDS

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