



Senator the Hon Richard Colbeck

Liberal Senator for Tasmania

MEDIA RELEASE

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*** Keay Caught Out on Company Tax Numbers ***

Former MP Justine Keay has been caught out fudging the numbers on her company tax claims.

Her recent claims that only ten businesses on the North West Coast would benefit from the Coalition Government's tax relief have turned out to be completely false.

"Justine Keay has demonstrated once again how limited her understanding is of the business community in Braddon," Senator Colbeck said.

"Justine Keay has ignored the workers in businesses based in Braddon unless the Registered Office of that company happens to be based here, regardless of where their business operations are."

"3817 people are employed by Wesfarmers in Tasmania, but because their Registered Office is in WA apparently they shouldn't benefit from tax relief."

"MMG Rosebery employs 411 people in Braddon but because they have a registered office in Melbourne apparently they don't benefit our region."

"Even our local newspaper was not included because Fairfax has its Registered Office in Sydney."

"Ms Keay has been caught just having a quick Google to try and get her head across the economic issues facing businesses in Braddon."

Senator Colbeck said that it was important to remember there are three types of businesses not counted in Ms Keay's back of the envelope calculation for the Braddon economy.

1. Major businesses like those in the ASX 200 that employ large numbers of people right across the country and who are headquartered in our major cities
2. Major international businesses that operate key economic industries in Braddon
3. Regional businesses that have their Primary Place of Business in Braddon but who operate a small Registered Office in a capital city

"Aquaculture is a major employer in our region but because Huon and Tassal have Registered Offices in Hobart, the working families who rely on jobs in Macquarie Harbour are apparently irrelevant to Justine Keay," Senator Colbeck said.

"Toll Holdings operates the major shipping service out of Tasmania's largest port at Burnie, as well as employing truckies right across our region, but because they have a Registered Office in Melbourne they weren't flagged in Ms Keay's shoddy research."

"All these businesses have made and continue to make major investments in our region, when they invest the economy of the region is stronger and there are more jobs."

"The more of the money they earn, the more they can keep, the more they can and do invest in our region."

"It is now up to Justine Keay to explain why she either hasn't done her research or isn't concerned about the businesses and workers who form the backbone of our economy in Braddon."

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