



# Senator the Hon Richard Colbeck

Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources

Liberal Senator for Tasmania

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### Labor meatworker union reveals plans to butcher Tasmanian economy

Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources, Tasmanian Senator Richard Colbeck, said Labor's union masters have endangered Tasmania's economy by demanding a future Labor government gut the Tasmanian Freight Equalisation Scheme (TFES).

**Assistant Minister Colbeck:** "With Bill Shorten's union masters demanding he scrap the TFES for unprocessed Tasmanian goods, Labor must reveal their plans to cut the TFES.

"The Labor-aligned meatworkers union demanding the gutting the TFES is the one of the most staggering acts of economic sabotage I have ever seen.

"What is so disturbing about the proposal to end TFES rebates for raw materials is that it will be an economy-wide hit on Tasmania's primary producers – from farmers to foresters, miners to fishers.

"The meatworkers union, like the MUA, are calling for Tasmania's agricultural sector to be brought to its knees and a permanent handicap be placed on our economy.

"Bill Shorten and his Tasmanian Labor-Green cohort must come clean on their plans to butcher the TFES and hold Tasmanian primary producers to ransom.

"The Coalition Government has a proud record of extending the TFES on many occasions since its inception, including most recently by extending the TFES to exports and donated drought relief fodder.

"The extension of the TFES to exports in 2015, in particular, was regarded as a game-changer for the Tasmanian economy and our unparalleled export growth since then has proved it to be true.

"Livestock has been a part of the TFES since its inception under Malcolm Fraser and Labor's plans will rock the scheme to its very core.

"Gutting the TFES is quite simply an act of treason against the Tasmanian economy and Bill Shorten must come clean on his plans."

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