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**Roy Reekie**

Labor candidate

South West Coast

Wednesday 5 November, 2014

**An open letter to Keppel Prince, its workers, their families and the Portland community**

The decision to retrench 100 Keppel Prince employees is devastating, not just for the workers and their families, but for Portland and the whole South West.

The South West’s economic future rests on industries like the renewable energies industry and businesses that support it like Keppel Prince.

Tony Abbott and Denis Napthine have both made it clear that a Liberal government will not support the renewable energy industry. That partly explains why Denis Napthine did so little to prevent the job losses in the very community he represents. He’s let us down.

Recently, Daniel Andrews announced Labor’s *Back to Work* plan which will fight for jobs like those just lost at Keppel Prince. Labor’s plan offers practical, down to earth support for growing industries like renewable energies and incentives for businesses to hire retrenched or long term unemployed workers. This will mean both support for existing jobs and new jobs for those who don’t have them.

Many of the solutions within the *Back to Work* plan could have easily been implemented by this Liberal government. This could’ve headed off the circumstances that led to Keppel Prince’s decision to shed jobs.

Instead, we’re left wondering why our local representative, the Premier of Victoria, didn’t do more to stop these retrenchments. In fact, we’ve heard very little sense from him at all about how his government will combat this growing employment crisis. Half promises about work from one off projects that may or may not go ahead are not enough. What’s needed is a plan for sustainable growth in emerging industries, a plan like Labor’s plan.

In November, you can use your vote at the State Election to send Denis Napthine a message. Right now, our electorate is considered ‘safe’ by the Liberal Party. That means we’re taken for granted, because the Liberals believe there’s no danger of losing this seat in an election.

Use your vote at this election to make Denis Napthine take notice. Tell him that sitting on his hands while local jobs disappear isn’t good enough. Vote Labor.

Nothing gets action from a politician quicker than the threat of lost votes. And our community needs action.

If you trust me with your vote on November 29, I will work with you to ensure that action is what we get, regardless of whether I’m elected. If I am elected as your local member, you will be guaranteed of action on this issue. If I’m not elected but Labor wins government, I will provide you with access to those in government who can take action. If I’m not elected but the Coalition wins government, I will stand with you to hold Denis Napthine accountable on this issue and for his part in what has happened.

Yours faithfully,

**Roy Reekie**

Labor candidate for South West Coast