



Sid Sidebottom MP ... for a fair go in Braddon

Media Release – April 13, 2010

Sad news for paper mill

The sad announcement that the Burnie paper mill will close is the latest in a long line of bad news in recent years for the mills which have suffered a slow demise, says the Federal Member for Braddon Sid Sidebottom MP.

However, Mr Sidebottom said today's news from Paperlinx would bring some certainty for workers and their families and those businesses relying on the mill.

"My negotiations with workers representatives and comments from Paperlinx give me great confidence that full entitlements will be paid out to the employees," Mr Sidebottom said.

"I understand comprehensive remediation programs for the two sites in Burnie and Wesley Vale are budgeted for and will take place over the next three years. I also believe there are serious interested parties looking to take over the Wesley Vale site."

"The Federal and State Innovation and Investment Fund should be announced very soon and given the large number of applications from the North-West Coast I am confident that there will be further opportunities in our region to try and take up some of the demand that will result from the closure of the mills.

"It is very important that the Federal and State governments and their agencies work closely with the former employees to assist them to move into further training and education or improve their skills and to seek alternative employment.

"The North-West Coast has a wonderful record of coming together in times of adversity and I hope job opportunities will result from the creativity and resourcefulness of our communities."

Mr Sidebottom urged any businesses or individuals with job opportunities to consider being part of Job, Training and Education Forums to be held next week in Devonport and Burnie. For information about the forums call Jo in Devonport on 6421 4330 or Linda in Burnie on 6434 4630.

For more information: Luke Sayer on 0458 311 355