



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

Media Release

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Mills Update

Federal Member for Braddon Sid Sidebottom and five North-West mayors today met with Australian Paper management to discuss the future of the Wesley Vale and Burnie mills.

Union representatives and the Federal Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research Senator Kim Carr also attended the meeting.

Mr Sidebottom said the meeting had been very informative.

“The company set out the scope of the current review and elaborated on some of the alternatives available to them,” Mr Sidebottom said.

“We also discussed the challenges facing the Tasmanian mills and some significant factors which might assist in making the mills more financially viable.

“Local initiatives, such as the procurement of North-West produced paper by local, State and Federal governments was raised as a possible factor in helping to sustain these mills.”

Minister Carr gave the meeting notice of the establishment of a new pulp and paper industry strategy group to investigate the future of the industry.

“This group will be made up of key decision makers and unions in the industry, including Mr Sidebottom and local government representatives.

“The strategy group will run in parallel with the current company review, which is intended to be completed by the end of June.

“The review and the strategy group report will give government, the North-West Coast community and the industry a clearer understanding of where things are at and what the industry may need to sustain its future.

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