



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

MEDIA RELEASE

25 November 2009

PARLIAMENTARY CALL ON MULTI-NATIONALS FOR A FAIR GO

The Federal Member for Braddon Sid Sidebottom called on multi-nationals National Foods and McCain for a fair go for Tasmanian farmers and their supporters, in Parliament today.

In a speech to Parliament he detailed the impact of the stalemate between National Foods and its suppliers, and the aftermath of McCain's announcement it would close its Smithton vegetable plant next year cutting 200 jobs.

"It is with sadness that this morning I have to raise some issues that are really striking at the heart of my local community and certainly do not seem to be getting any better," Mr Sidebottom said.

He said National Foods was offering milk producers prices way below production costs at a time when climatically, they had a very, very serious wet spring which has impacted on their capacity to produce.

"I beg and implore National Foods to do the right thing by their producers and come to a reasonable and fair arrangement as quickly as possible, otherwise producers are going down the drain."

He said McCain's announcement it would close the Smithton vegetable plant had devastated the local community, and was in complete contrast to the company statement – "No matter how big we grow, we never lose touch with what's important to the people who depend on our local operations".

"Without notice to anybody, they made an announcement that they will close their vegetable processing plant," he said.

"You cannot do business like this. I implore McCain to reconsider this decision.

"The Federal Government, with the State government and local community, will do everything we can to have this decision rescinded. You cannot keep doing business like this in Australia. It is not fair."

FOR MORE INFORMATION – Luke Sayer on 0458 311 355