



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

**Media Release**

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### **Working to preserve West Coast jobs**

MOVES are underway to find short term projects to employ workers from the Queenstown copper mine who are facing tough times, the Federal Member for Braddon Sid Sidebottom said today.

Mr Sidebottom said that during the past week he had been working to help find solutions to the jobs crisis at Copper Mines of Tasmania's Queenstown mine – caused by a massive mud slide at the mine more than a month ago.

A number of employees and contractors at the mine have been left without work and have exhausted their leave while waiting for the mine to reopen – and more could soon follow.

Mr Sidebottom said that after he contacted Minister for Employment, Senator Mark Arbib, the Local Employment Coordinator Geoff Speers had been brought in to help.

Mr Speers has been talking to the West Coast Council about potential job creating projects.

“What we need to do is find projects which can be quickly underway and will suit the skills of the miners, and cut through any red tape which may prevent them being employed again,” Mr Sidebottom said.

“Mr Speers is working with the council and other key parties to find a quick solution.”

Mr Sidebottom said that earlier in the year when facing other job losses in the mining sector the Council had short listed a number of projects which may provide some job relief.

“If we can reach the right agreements then there may be room to provide temporary employment for miners and other contractors to help them through this difficult time,” Mr Sidebottom said.

“At this stage we are looking at all options and hope to find a way to help further.

“The Federal Government is already responding through Centrelink, but if we can keep people working then it is a much better option than having to resort to social security.”

Mr Sidebottom said he was also working with unions the West Coast Council, the State Government and the company to help with the situation at Queenstown.

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