



More forestry job losses in the South East

The announcement of more forestry job losses before Christmas is another blow to families in the South East.

Nineteen employees from the South East Pines Sales Kalangadoo mill and treatment plant – which was sold by Gunns in August – were handed their termination notices when they arrived at work to find the gates locked by administrators.

“This news is devastating for the 19 employees and their families in the lead up to Christmas,” The Member for Hammond and Shadow Minister for Forests Adrian Pederick said.

“It was only in August that the South East Pine Sales company tried to

resurrect this mill from Gunns and it is unfortunate the employment fears held by these people then were realised today.

“We have seen job losses at Carter Holt Harvey, speculation of half the workforce going at ForestrySA and now today’s announcement.

“This is a direct result of the Weatherill Labor Government’s decision to sell 100 years of ForestrySA’s timber harvesting rights.

“Now, opportunities for co-investment under the \$27 million industry

assistance package offered to local millers with contracts with OneFortyOne Plantations opportunities must be realised. “Since announcing this package in November, the Weatherill Labor Government has given no further information or details on how the package will be rolled out.

“The Government must also act on any project in the forestry industry in the South East to ensure job losses and mill closures don’t continue.

“Local millers must be supported and the Government must start investing in the region in order to secure jobs now and into the future.”