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Adrian Pederick MP

Shadow Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries
Shadow Minister for Forests

Labor too arrogant to listen to forest inquiry

In another display of breathtaking arrogance, Labor has insisted it will not be influenced by the findings of a Select Committee into its planned forward sale of 111 years of public-owned South East timber growth.

In a statement Forests Minister Michael O'Brien said: *"The Government opposed establishing the select committee because we considered it a waste of resources."*

Shadow Forests Minister Adrian Pederick said today's announcement by Minister O'Brien showed no amount of compelling evidence against the sale would change their mind.

"Labor says it's committed to ForestrySA's future but only thing Labor is committed to is selling the timber regardless," Mr Pederick said.

"Minister O'Brien says Labor won't be influenced by the Select Committee, but *"will consider its findings"* – just like they've 'considered' all the other advice against their decision.

"This typifies Labor's single-minded attitude to the forests since December 2008. It is all too clear that they only take notice of opinions that support their plan.

"The only professional and informed opinion that supports the forestry sale is the Regional Impact Statement paid for by Labor which has since been described by its own agency, ForestrySA, as 'flawed'.

"Labor did not even seek ForestrySA's opinion on the sale.

"Minister O'Brien is hiding behind Labor's roundtable, whose task quite obviously is to minimise the economic and social damage the Government's widely condemned decision will cause.

"This will give Labor someone to blame when thousands of jobs are lost and a profitable industry is sacrificed for a short term gain."

Contact: Adrian Pederick - 0429 692 921

Visit Adrian's website www.adrianpederick.com.