

MEDIA RELEASE

Adrian Pederick MP JP

Member for Hammond

Opposition Whip

Shadow Minister for

Agriculture, Food & Fisheries and Forests

Friday March 11, 2011

Study confirms the obvious – dump the forward sale plan

A report into the socio-economic consequences of the forward sale of South East timber confirms what everybody except the government already knew, says Shadow Forestry Minister Adrian Pederick.

Commissioned by three SE councils the report by an industry analyst and economist concluded up to 3,000 jobs could be lost to the region.

Mr Pederick said it has been blatantly clear from the start that the sale would devastate the South East economy.

‘Even a cursory look at the region’s economic structure shows how fundamental the timber industry is.

‘State Treasurer Jack Snelling has refused to accept the substance of this report, choosing instead to give preference to a government-sponsored Regional Impact Statement, the credibility and independence of which is already in question.

‘The new treasurer has a golden opportunity to show better judgement than his predecessor and abandon what is clearly a bad plan.

‘Selling the region’s core asset – timber growth – relinquishes control over it, placing at risk thousands of jobs and many different industries, such as the building industry – a key economic driver.

‘The report confirms what I have said – for the sake of the region and the whole state, the government should be investing in forestry, not dismantling it.’