Labor should admit it is wrong on timber sale

What does it take for the state Labor government to admit it got it wrong over the forward sale of 111 years of South East timber asks Shadow Forests Minister Adrian Pederick.

Mr Pederick said all advice and feedback received from stakeholders, industry, councils and an independent Community Impact Statement urged strongly and unequivocally against the sale.

'The only contrary report is the one the government themselves commissioned – the Regional Impact Statement,' said Mr Pederick.

"Early examination of that report points to inaccuracies, inadequacies and an apparent bias in conclusions.

'It would seem the conclusions were written before the study itself was undertaken. The government's promise to abide by the report's findings underscores how confident it was about the conclusion.

"Now we see a compelling report from Canada drawing parallels with the South East situation and highlighting the folly of selling off state timber stocks to overseas interests.

'Rapidly developing countries like China and India are buying up as much timber as they can to support their own development.

'Export of round logs from British Columbia has tripled in two years, leaving many Canadian sawmills short of logs, threatening jobs.

'I'm not against timber exports but without the secondary processing onshore first, the benefit of a major industry and economic generator is limited.

'Treasurer Snelling needs to accept that the government's blind determination to press ahead with this sale against all reasonable advice is placing the future of the South East, and to some extent the whole state, at risk.

'By the time the economic impact of this suicidal sale has taken full effect, the money will have been spent and we'll be starting again from ground level to rebuild the SE economy.'

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