

MEDIA RELEASE

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Monday February 14, 2011

More smoke and mirrors on timber forward sale

Yet another Labor politician has shown contempt for South Australian voters by dodging questions about Labor's planned forward sale of timber.

The government has proposed the sale of up to 111 years of timber growth – a move that threatens the economy of the entire South East region, and the state more generally.

Opposition forests spokesman Adrian Pederick said the new leader of the state's Legislative Council, Bernard Finnigan – who was born in Mt Gambier, had avoided direct questions about his position on the proposal.

'Mr Finnigan said it was "a matter for the Treasurer and the Minister for Forests",' said Mr Pederick.

'I would have thought such critical decisions were made by Cabinet, of which he is a member.

'Mr Finnigan states the government was 'upfront' about the decision. Perhaps he could be 'upfront' with the people of the South East, with whom he proudly identifies.

'He then gave a vague promise that the sale would not proceed if a Regional Impact Statement finds it uneconomical.

'Mr Finnigan makes much of his desire to ensure future generations have good opportunities yet this forward sale proposal poses the biggest ever single threat to the opportunities and future of his fellow South Easterners.

'He should show them some respect and declare whether he is with them or against them on this extremely important matter.'