



MEDIA STATEMENT

# Tony Simpson MLA

Opposition Spokesperson for Information  
Technology and Communications

31 Oct. 2006

## OpenSource WA closed for business

'Budgetary constraints' have forced the closure of the OpenSource Software Project as forecast by Shadow Spokesperson for IT and Communications Tony Simpson less than a month ago.

Despite assurances from the Department of Industry and Resources, questions are still circulating about the future of the OpenSource WA Demonstration Centre.

Mr Simpson said the government continued to make a hash of their commitment to the information and communications technology industry.

"Despite Fran Logan's reassurances, it appears the centre as we know it will be closed," said Mr Simpson.

"On one hand you have Stephen Grocott, the Deputy Director-General of the Department of Industry and Resources saying there was no threat to funding (page 41, *The West Australian*, October 3, 2006) a bit more than a fortnight after the director-general of the same department, Jim Limerick, wrote to a contractor advising that his contract would be terminated due to the centre closing down because of budgetary constraints," Mr Simpson said.

"Mr Limerick's letter to contractor Phillip Twiss was dated September 15, 2006 and quotes Mr Grocott having a meeting with Mr Twiss three days before and the reason for open source software being closed.

"Other rumours have come to my attention that the Labor State Government will try and pass the role of the centre, as well as financial responsibility for its operations, onto local TAFEs, Universities and research institutes.

"Where is this money coming from? Is it taking funds away from other educational initiatives? Will the centre provide the same level of service as previously?

"These are all questions that the Minister must answer.

"Any claims that these are minor changes seem to be incorrect.

"From what I can tell all function of the OpenSource Centre have ceased. The website has been closed and any contact numbers I can find have been disconnected.

"Science and Innovation minister Fran Logan had no plan for the IT industry and this has been proven with confusion over the OpenSource issue.

"I forecast at the end of last month that it would be consistent with government performance in this portfolio to cut funding to an area where they had finally had some success.

"It appears this has happened."



**MEDIA STATEMENT**

# Tony Simpson MLA

Opposition Spokesperson for Information  
Technology and Communications

Mr Simpson said it was inconceivable that a government swimming in cash could terminate a popular and effective program in a booming industry.

“The ICT industry in Western Australia was worth between \$10 and \$17 billion according to government estimates and was responsible for the employment of between 130,000 and 184,000 people

“The Minister is a member of a high-taxing government that is short changing WA’s future prosperity by under investing in a key growth area of the economy.”

**Media enquiries:** Shaun Ratcliff  
E-mail: [shaun.ratcliff@mp.wa.gov.au](mailto:shaun.ratcliff@mp.wa.gov.au)  
Mobile: 0405 440 345