

MEDIA STATEMENT



Tony Simpson MLA

Shadow Minister for Consumer Protection; Forestry; Volunteers; IT & Communications

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Lack of State Gov't support forces IT company out

Shadow IT and Communication Minister Tony Simpson has blamed the WA State Government for not providing the environment needed for small start up companies to succeed in IT.

Mr Simpson said he was concerned that small Perth Internet start up company Project Goth had decided to move its operations from Perth to Berlingame, California.

“The State Labor Government has failed to provide an environment that provides the capital and support that companies like this need to thrive,” Mr Simpson said.

“These companies are then forced to look overseas.

“It’s just another example of the State Government being incapable of managing the economy.

“Despite the government’s rhetoric of a ‘Beyond the Boom Strategy’, we have successful small businesses moving overseas to look for funding and a better chance for success.

“Information and Communications Technology companies are vital for future economic growth.

“These companies have been a key driver of the Western Australian economy, improving productivity and directly and indirectly contributing to the employment of between 10 and 17 per cent of WA’s workforce.

“The IT industry is probably only second in importance to mining to the WA economy.

“The Labor Government doesn’t seem to see this and continues to drive our economy blind, simply relying on the hope that the commodities boom will go on forever.

“If our economy is to continue to grow once the commodities boom ends, we must retain innovative and entrepreneurial businesses like Project Goth in WA.

“To do this the State Government must provide the IT and Communications Industries with the support and environment that is essential for their success.”

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