

MEDIA STATEMENT



Tony Simpson MLA

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

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Labor Government chooses forests over workers

Nine forestry workers in Collie face unemployment or relocation due to State Government policies that have locked up thousands of hectares of old growth forests.

Shadow Forestry Minister Tony Simpson said it is vital the government ensures its old growth forests' policy does not destroy the livelihoods of thousands of WA's forestry workers.

"It is essential our old growth forests are protected because these are valuable areas of wilderness that should be preserved for future generations," Mr Simpson said.

"However, many people work for businesses that are reliant on a viable forestry industry in WA and the production of goods emanating from that industry.

"Many of these businesses are under threat due to government policies that have made it harder for them to compete with international companies.

"These businesses, their workers and their families should not alone pay the price because of our desire to protect these forests."

Mr Simpson said Labor had since 2001 to get the old growth forests' policy right.

"The Liberal Party is developing a forestry policy that will protect our native old growth forests while maintaining a competitive forestry industry that will continue to provide employment and investment in our rural and regional communities," he said.

"It's about time the Premier and his Ministers got their act together to protect the forests in a sustainable way, without destroying people's lives and livelihoods."

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