

## Isobel Redmond MP

Leader of the Opposition  
Shadow Minister for the Arts, Multicultural Affairs and ICAC

Thursday, 20 October 2011

### Labor's legacy: neglect of regional South Australia

Nearly a decade of Labor has been characterised by the sustained neglect of regional South Australia with many country communities devastated by Labor's city-centric policies.

Labor's relentless attacks on the State's regions include:

- Selling the forward rotations of the state's forests
- Slashing funding to regional community hospitals in Keith, Ardrossan and Moonta
- Awarding a substantial part of the lucrative regional school bus contract to an interstate company instead of staying with local providers
- Failing to adequately consult regional communities on marine parks
- Slashing jobs and funding from PIRSA
- Allowing regional roads to deteriorate with a \$200 million backlog in road maintenance across the state
- Removing the Petroleum Subsidy Scheme which has seen petrol prices in country regions rise by 3.3 cents per litre, increasing the cost of food, services and tourism and ripping \$50 million over 3.5 years from the pockets of regional South Australians
- Increasing fees and charges imposed on the fishing, wine, mining and farming sectors
- Pursuing the Shared Services agenda, centralising departmental HR & IT into Adelaide, costing government jobs in regional town

Opposition Leader Isobel Redmond said Labor had also landed regional South Australia in a jobs crisis with the mining sector losing 1000 jobs, and manufacturing and construction each losing 3,400 jobs in the three months to August.

"Labor has a shocking record of abandoning South Australia's regional communities," Ms Redmond said.

"Country South Australians have felt the pain delivered by the State Government's financial failure and are paying the highest price for nearly a decade of Labor's mismanagement.

"No doubt new Premier Weatherill will try to distance himself from all these decisions but he sat in Cabinet for every Labor decision that has crushed regional communities and must now take responsibility for his Government's reckless, city-centric policies.

"Not once did he ever speak out against the decisions that have decimated our regional communities.

"Mr Weatherill can start by agreeing to match the Liberals' \$5 million commitment over four years to reinstate funding to community hospitals. The Liberals will be a government for all South Australians, not just those living in metropolitan Adelaide."

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