

Dan van Holst Pellekaan MP

Member for Stuart
Shadow Minister for Regional Development
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Labor's 'Regional Development Fund' falls short

The Weatherill Labor Government has announced plans in the 2012-13 Budget to replace current regional development funding of \$7.1 million per year with a new fund worth only \$3 million per year.

The Government currently contributes \$4.1 million to Regional Development Australia (RDA) and \$3 million to the Regional Development Infrastructure Fund (RDIF).

Both of these contributions will be replaced by a single new Regional Development Fund worth \$3 million.

"In this Budget, the Weatherill Labor Government has failed to re-introduce core funding to RDA entities, whilst withdrawing funding for the RDIF at the same time," Shadow Regional Development Minister Dan van Holst Pellekaan said.

"Core funding is required to run offices and to pay good people to do an important job in a secure workplace.

"For RDA entities to be successful and to do the ongoing work they need to do in regional areas they need security, which can only be obtained through core funding.

"The \$3 million dollar announcement fools no one – in the regions, we all know that it is replacing the \$7.1 million that we have now.

"Labor made a promise to continue RDIF funding and not reduce RDA funding, but now they have broken both promises."

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