



MEDIA RELEASE

RALLY SIDESTEPS WILDO'S HIJACK

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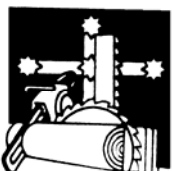
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A Wilderness Society plot to disrupt a pro development rally in Launceston has been foiled.

The organisers of the pro development rally late yesterday received advice that environmental activists had booked the Albert Hall in Launceston on the day of the pro-rally under the pretext of staging a trade fair.

Advice from a pro-development supporter disillusioned with the Wilderness Society antics advised the CFMEU that the Hall would be used as a base to harass and intimidate participants in the pro-development rally with the intent of provoking confrontation.

CFMEU's State Secretary Scott McLean said organisers are determined to provide a peaceful, safe and non-threatening environment for pro-development rally participants to have their say and who want to support sustainable and balanced development in Tasmania, including the pulp mill.

"We have now decided to move the rally to Royal Park.

"The decision to move the event was made after I called the Wilderness Society this morning, asking that they re-locate their "trade fair" to a less confrontational site and I made the offer to cover all reasonable costs. The request was denied".

"This is really quite childish behaviour. These cloak and dagger antics are ridiculous. I cannot for the life of me understand why they cannot allow law abiding citizens to peacefully express their views," Mr McLean said.

"We have not interfered with their anti everything rallies. They should extend the same courtesy to us."

Mr McLean said the Albert Hall antics were just the tip of the iceberg.

"We understand the Huon Valley Environment Centre is involved in organising a counter rally on the same day in the south."

"The centre, whose senior activist is employed by Bob Brown, is apparently hoping that the protest action will mean forestry workers will need to remain in the south to protect equipment, rather than attending the rally.

"It really is time for the green movement to grow up. People are sick to death of stunts and they are especially tired of the childish games to prevent ordinary citizens from having their say."

Mr McLean said "he hoped the intimidatory tactics would not deter people from attending Thursday's rally at Royal Park."

"The intimidatory phone calls received at my office have been swamped by callers supporting the rally and wishing organisers the very best," Mr McLean said.

"This latest stunt by the environmental movement further demonstrates that will do anything in their campaign to threaten the futures and jobs of hardworking Tasmanians. "

Ends. 17 July 2007

For further comment contact Scott McLean 0418 131 901