

MEDIA RELEASE

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COUSINS SHOULD SOLVE TELSTRA'S ILLS

Geoffrey Cousins should stick to his duties as a Telstra director and work to solve the ills of that company rather than interfering in Tasmanian affairs.

"While Mr Cousins engages in his self-serving campaign to destroy Tasmanian jobs and economic development through his attack on the Bell Bay pulp mill, he is ignoring his responsibilities to millions of Australian telecommunications consumers and hundreds of thousands of Telstra shareholders as a director of the company." Mr Barry Chipman Tasmanian State Manager Timber Communities Australia said today.

"Telstra had a pretty ordinary record of service to country and regional Australia and as a director of the company; Mr Cousins must shoulder some of the responsibility".

"Telstra has decided to close its Launceston call centre costing some 257 positions and has cut hundreds of other jobs in Tasmania and again, Mr Cousins has overseen all this, with a deafly silence."

"He presents himself as this defender of all things Tasmanian, but the reality shows he cares very little for Tasmanians." Has he bothered to meet with the Telstra workers and their families that are to lose their jobs in January? We know for sure that he has not bothered to meet with Tasmanian working timber families"

Mr Cousins has the comfort of living in his swank Sydney suburb but obviously knows nothing about the pulp mill and the years of work put in to developing what is a sustainable project managed under the most stringent environmental conditions in the world.

"But his massive ego-trip and his craving for media attention means those Tasmanian jobs and our state's economy counts for very little in his mind,"

"It appears that he is hell-bent on his anti-Tasmanian crusade, a crusade that by association is further damaging the image of Telstra in the eyes of many rural Tasmanians. If he is not, then he should move immediately to reverse the massive loss of the 257 Telstra jobs in Launceston"

Once he has rescued the futures of these valued 257 Telstra working families he could then take time out to meet with Tasmanian working timber families to gain an understanding of their aspirations and goals. Mr Chipman concluded.

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