



Securing jobs for North Western Tasmania

Julia Gillard and Labor
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SECURING JOBS FOR NORTH WESTERN TASMANIA

A re-elected Gillard Labor Government will help to secure over 600 jobs in North Western Tasmania by investing in a major upgrade of the Simplot vegetable processing plant.

The investment will also benefit the Tasmanian environment by reducing carbon dioxide emissions by 39,000 tonnes a year.

The plant supports around 390 permanent jobs and 280 seasonal jobs in both Ulverstone and Devonport.

Supporting hundreds of jobs at Simplot is a key part of the Gillard Labor Government's economic plan.

Federal Labor will provide funding to convert the Simplot vegetable processing plant in Ulverstone to more sustainable natural gas.

The project will cut the company's energy bills by replacing coal boilers with a new natural gas fired cogeneration system to produce both electricity and steam.

The project will benefit employees and the environment, by:

- Supporting the hundreds of farmers, farm contractors, and service providers whose jobs and businesses depend on Simplot's operations; and
- Reducing carbon dioxide emissions by 39,000 tonnes a year – the equivalent of taking 8,000 cars off the road.

Federal Member for Braddon Sid Sidebottom said employment was a priority issue in the local community.

"Many local families are already doing it tough with cost of living pressures and struggling to make ends meet each week," Sid Sidebottom said.

"The Gillard Labor Government is investing in Tasmanian businesses to help support local jobs and the regional economy.

“This includes rolling out the National Broadband Network, which will make our businesses more globally competitive, and providing tax breaks for small business.

Labor’s Clean 21 manufacturing strategy, which aims to make Australian industry more productive, competitive, and sustainable by encouraging a switch to greener products and processes.

“Tony Abbott does not have the judgment to invest in the regional economy, including the manufacturing sector, let alone manage the national economy,” Kim Carr said.

“In fact, Tony Abbott and the Coalition have promised to cut or abolish three successful Labor programs that are putting Australian industry on a more sustainable footing – the Green Car Innovation Fund, Retooling for Climate Change, and the Green Building Fund.”

The project is expected to cost \$15.6 million. The Tasmanian Government has agreed to contribute \$1 million in addition to Federal Labor’s contribution of \$3 million. Simplot will provide the remainder of the investment.

The Gillard Labor Government’s contribution is subject to Simplot’s international board approving the project and Simplot Australia continuing to invest in its Tasmanian factories, including spending \$3 million at Devonport.

The Tasmanian Government will also invest \$2 million to upsize the new natural gas pipeline to be built as part of the project so that it can accommodate the future needs of the Ulverstone community, not just the Simplot factory.

“This is great news for the north-west, and will go a long way toward our ambitious but achievable target of creating 15,000 new Tasmanian jobs in this term of Government,” said the Tasmanian Premier, David Bartlett.

“Supporting important infrastructure projects like this pipeline not only help us meet that target, but provide long-term social, economic and environmental benefits for the whole region.

“With support from both the State and Federal Labor Governments, Simplot now has an extremely strong case to consider further investment in their Ulverstone operation – providing long-term stability in the region.”

Federal Labor will reduce funding for the Retooling for Climate Change program by \$3 million to fund this initiative. This investment has similar objectives to the program.

This means Federal Labor’s announcement will be fully offset over the forward estimates, consistent with the Government’s commitment to return the budget to surplus in three years.

AUTHORISED N. MARTIN for the ALP, 5/9 Sydney Ave. Barton ACT.