



STUART GRIMLEY MP

Member for Western Victoria
State Leader of Derryn Hinch's Justice Party



MEDIA RELEASE

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Grimley Questions Where Our Regional Jobs Are Going

Stuart Grimley MP has asked the Government where Western Victoria's regional and rural jobs are going to come from, given the dim future of several important industries including mining, manufacturing and logging.

Reflecting on changes to these industries over the past 12 months – since Mr Grimley was elected as an MP - he asked the Treasurer to “outline the future of employment and jobs growth in regional and rural Victoria”.

This comes as the State Government last week announced a phase-out of the native timber logging industry. Further, a [2.75% royalty to gold mining](#) was included in this financial years' budget which could potentially risk hundreds of regional jobs. Mr Grimley acknowledged the investment in renewable energies but said it would come at the expense of the “conventional coal mines and energy generation” sector which some regional communities have been built on.

On top of this, Mr Grimley raised the delay of some regional projects including the Murray Basin Rail Project which is tipped to provide many regional export opportunities, but is yet to be properly planned and funded.

During his travels around his 80,000km electorate of Western Victoria, Mr Grimley frequently meets constituents who have concerns about jobs growth and industry stability.

Last month, Mr Grimley asked the State Government to commit to including Portland to Maroona rail as part of the Murray Basin Rail Project however no commitment has been made as yet.

Whilst Mr Grimley congratulated the State Government on their efforts to create 450,000 jobs since November 2014, Western Victoria still has communities with <18% youth unemployment (Maryborough) and some communities generally declining in numbers due to industry uncertainty and lack of investment.

Quotes Attributable to Stuart Grimley MP:

“Mining, agriculture, manufacturing and construction all play a vital role in ensuring the economic sustainability of rural and regional Victoria.

There's no question that overall as a state, job growth is positive, but with closure and disregard for industries that are the backbone of regional communities, this leaves those living within communities with very few options of employment.

I've spoken in Parliament on many occasions about the divide between metro and regional Victoria and I will keep doing it until constituents in small towns – including towns with less than 100 people in them – feel comfortable that they'll have jobs to go to in 2, 10, 20 years and beyond.”

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