

David Koch

Member for Western Victoria Opposition Whip (Council)

46 Brown Street, Hamilton 3300
Tel: 5572 3377 · Fax: 5572 4945

MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday, 28 August 2008

Brumby fails workers again - more job losses

Liberal MP David Koch said John Brumby's decisions had to get a whole lot smarter if Geelong was going to hold jobs in this economic climate.

Mr Koch said that the Premier's ad hoc policy releases in the good times reflect a lack of planning as economic conditions tighten and he urged Labor leaders to follow the Victorian Coalition's announcement on the weekend, and commit to plans for a second international airport at Avalon.

"Geelong hasn't even recovered from the 350 jobs cut from Ford on Friday, so Telstra's announcement to pull 190 permanent and casual positions from the region indicates the Brumby's Government failure to protect workers' jobs," Mr Koch said.

"Of great concern is that these latest job losses are imminent, meaning local workers will be out of a job before Christmas.

"Premier Brumby's spruiking of new jobs at Ballarat is merely a cover as these jobs will not be online for up to five years and will only be for highly trained university graduates.

"The Brumby Government is failing Victorian workers with daily industry announcements of now hundreds of workers being laid off or their jobs robbed from Geelong.

"Regional communities are being hit hard right across the State with yet another announcement, this time from AME Systems in Ararat where more than 40 jobs are to be immediately axed.

"An international airport at Avalon would create 400 jobs, but John Brumby and Kevin Rudd continue to ignore the opportunity staring them in the face.

"If we want real tourism and infrastructure opportunities in Victoria then a second international gateway to our state is overdue.

"Darren Cheeseman can get up in Federal Parliament and talk about Avalon until he's blue in the face, but no one in the Labor Party is listening.

"Michael Crutchfield, Ian Tresize and Lisa Neville haven't even mentioned Avalon Airport in parliament this year. Incredibly, local member for Lara, John Eren MP, hasn't even discussed the opportunities for Avalon with airport management.

"Labor's decisions have to get a whole lot smarter if John Brumby wants to hold onto Victorian jobs in this economic climate," Mr Koch said.

Media inquiries: David Koch 0418 723 031