

Media Release

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Why won't Will Hodgman tell us what his IR policy is?

The Tasmanian Liberal Party leader was asked on ABC Radio this morning whether he supports the renewed push from Senator Eric Abetz for individual contracts, removal of protection from unfair dismissal and winding back of penalty rates and working hours and he refused to answer.

For possibly the first time a major party is going into an election without an industrial relations policy.

Questioned by Simon Cocker, Secretary of Unions Tasmania, Mr Hodgman also declined to answer why he would not publicly release a policy.

When reminded of the importance of the policy because, under the terms of the referral of industrial relations powers, the national system cannot be changed without the agreement of the State government Mr Hodgman resorted to bluster and referred to the issue as a furphy.

Mr Cocker has written to Will Hodgman asking him to clarify his position on industrial relations and has not received a reply. There is no industrial relations policy available from the Tasmanian Liberals whereas other political parties have policies publicly available on their websites.

Secretary of Unions Tasmania, Simon Cocker said:

"To respond to a reasonable request for a policy as basic as an industrial relations policy as a 'furphy' is an insult to ordinary working people."

"Mr Hodgman does not appear to understand how important job security and basic entitlements like penalty rates are to working Tasmanians."

"History shows that the Liberal Party can't be trusted on industrial relations and Mr Hodgman is trying to slide into this election silent on the issue to leave him free to do whatever he likes afterwards. For a leader claiming honesty as a platform this is not acceptable."

"Tasmanian workers deserve to know where Will Hodgman stands on the issues of individual contracts, unfair dismissal, protection of working hours and penalty rates."

"The question is simple: Would he as Premier agree with changes being proposed by Senator Abetz or would he stand up for Tasmanian workers?" said Mr Cocker.

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