

# Media Release

---

Thursday, 18 February 2010

## What is Will Hodgman not telling us about his plans for workplace relations?

With Federal Liberal leader Tony Abbott visiting Tasmania and having declared that he plans to introduce Workchoices mark 2 if he becomes Prime Minister, union leaders and a large group of rights at work supporters today called on Will Hodgman to come clean on his plans for industrial relations in Tasmania.

Secretary of Unions Tasmania, Simon Cocker said: "Tony Abbott has, in the last two days, been reconstructing Workchoices; individual contracts, removing unfair dismissal protections for tens of thousands of working people, attacking working hours and penalty rates. Does Will support this or not?"

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.

"Does Will Hodgman support the hard line policies of Tony Abbott and Eric Abetz or will he stand up for Tasmanian workers?"

"It is only fair that Tasmania's working people should be able to judge the Liberal party's policies in this area approaching the election, particularly as the last written position we have from the state Liberal Party is a 2005 letter from the then leader Mr Hidding in which he states unequivocally that the Tasmanian Liberals strongly support the Workchoices legislation."

"What's Will not telling us about his plans for working Tasmanians?"

"We call on the real Will Hodgman to stand up. It is not acceptable that the Liberals slide into an election with no stated policy on Industrial Relations."

"We wrote to Will Hodgman two weeks ago asking for clarification but we have had only silence. The website is silent. The last State Liberal response on record is a Rene Hidding letter from 2005 stating the State Liberals total support for Workchoices," said Mr Cocker.

**Media Contacts: Simon Cocker 0419 402377 / Susan Wallace 0418372198**

---

379 Elizabeth Street  
Hobart Tas 7000

PO Box 128  
North Hobart Tas 7002

Telephone: (03) 6234 9553  
Facsimile: (03) 6234 9505

Email: [admin@unionstas.com.au](mailto:admin@unionstas.com.au)

web-site: [www.unionstas.com.au](http://www.unionstas.com.au)

Secretary: Simon Cocker