

15 June 2009

Move On Protesters Now: Country Alliance

The Country Alliance party says the state government and opposition have slowed the mark in dealing with environmental protesters following Monday's intrusion of the privacy of the Chief Executive Officer of the Hazelwood power station.

"We introduced a policy early last year that we needed to tighten up the law on activities relating to extremist protesters, and we are now seeing the government take the same line," said party spokesman, Miles Hodge.

"We haven't seen the details though, so my challenge is for the government to come up with something that is more than just a slap on the wrist. Our policy holds the protesters personally liable for the damage they cause, including financial."

Mr Hodge said the new laws needed to also apply to protesting at the opening of duck season and against the timber industry.

"We're happy to uphold the right to protest, but the line is crossed when it comes to wilful trespassing to get their point across."

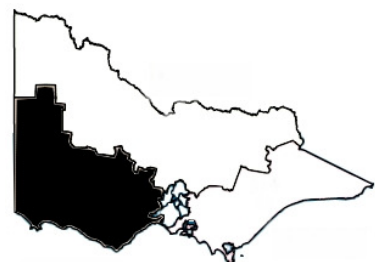
"The economic damage these activities cause is completely unnecessary and it's only a matter of time before someone is seriously hurt in the process."

Mr Hodge said that with the next state election now less than a year and a half away, the Government must address this issue now.

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2010 Candidate for Western Victoria Region