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Tasmanian Government **Media Release**

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Guy Barnett, Minister for State Development, Construction and Housing

### Keeping Tasmanian workers safe in their workplaces

It's now more important than ever that Tasmanian workers are free to go to work safely, without threat from radical extremists who invade workplaces and endanger employees.

This is the purpose of the Government's Workplace Protection legislation - to help Tasmanian workers be safe in their workplaces, while also being easier for police to enforce, with appropriate penalties to act as deterrents for extremist protests.

The Police Offences Amendment (Workplace Protection) Bill 2022 focuses on amending the existing Police Offences Act to ensure that our police are able to better protect workers and businesses through strengthening trespass and obstruction laws.

And to be clear, this legislation does not impede Tasmanians' right to free speech and to protest lawfully. The Bill does not criminalise any currently lawful act.

People wanting to make a point, politically or otherwise, have always had a choice whether to do it lawfully, or unlawfully – our policy will not change that choice.

Despite what the Greens or Labor claim, this Bill won't stop legal protests outside hospitals, schools or climate change protests in streets or on footpaths. Tasmanians will still be entitled to protest and have their say.

However, it is the extremist protests that are becoming more prevalent and we must act now to protect Tasmanian workers from intimidation and harassment.

Our Bill will also complement legislation already passed in the Federal Parliament where it received bi-

partisan support.

Labor governments and oppositions across the country have supported similar legislation and the time is long overdue for Tasmanian workers and businesses to have the same protection.