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### **Editorial**

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#### **Labor has turned its back on local community organisations**

Regional and remote communities are being hit hard by the rising cost of everything. Whether it's groceries, petrol, electricity, housing, mortgage – many of you are telling me life is much tougher now than it was 18-months ago.

Particularly vulnerable to cost-of-living pressures are our local community organisations – the heart and soul of our towns – which rely upon the generosity of volunteers, and sometimes a little bit of help from government to deliver their important programs.

The former Liberal/National government understood that, and chose to provide a range of programs targeted at the local community and council level. Programs such as the Stronger Communities Program, the Building Better Regions Fund and the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program. These programs ensured that Circular Head received its fair share of support.

Through these programs the Waratah/Wynyard region benefited from a specific allocation, and during my first term over 20 projects were delivered from these programs including upgrades to the Wynyard Sports Centre, the Yolla School playground, refurbishment of public toilets, renovations at Live Well Tasmania, not to mention a large number of local road and footpath upgrades.

Regrettably, one of Labor's first acts when elected to government was to scrap these vital, grassroots funding streams. At a time when many residents can't afford the petrol to drive to medical appointments, I'd argue that there couldn't be a worse time to be cutting important funding streams that are crucial to the ongoing social and economic fabric of our great local communities.