

Media Release

DAMIAN DRUM MP

Deputy Leader of The Nationals in the Legislative Council

Shadow Minister for Regional Development

Shadow Minister for Veterans

Shadow Minister for Sport

State Member for Northern Victoria

Thursday 10 December 2015

Labor's plan to axe Regional Living Expo caught out

Minister Jaala Pulford has today left Victoria's Regional Living Expo in limbo – despite her own agency Regional Development Victoria heralding it a success.

The city-centric Labor Government refused to fund the event in this year's State Budget and relegated it to one of their 100-plus reviews.

Ms Pulford refused to commit to the successful event's future when questioned in Parliament today by Shadow Minister for Regional Development, Damian Drum.

Ms Pulford refused to give stakeholders, including Victoria's 48 rural and regional councils, any clarity on the future of the event.

Comment from Shadow Minister for Regional Development, Damian Drum:

"The Expo is a fantastic event that helps Regional Victoria showcase lifestyle, work, community and investment opportunities that exist outside of Melbourne and it would be a crying shame if the Andrews Government drops the axe on it.

"Jaala Pulford has left councils and event stakeholders in limbo for months now and it is time for the Minister to come clean and tell us if Regional Victoria is going to lose out again under this city-centric Labor government."

What Minister Pulford used to say – [media release](#), 1 May 2015

"The Expo is a chance for rural and regional councils to showcase the outstanding benefits of their local areas, helping to attract potential residents, skilled workers, business and investment."

What Regional Development Victoria says – [annual report 2014/15](#)

"The fourth edition of the Regional Victoria Living Expo was a success, attracting a record 10,156 patrons."

"Once again, the Expo proved particularly popular with young families and working professionals, and councils continue to receive positive enquiries from attendees keen to move to their regions."

Media contact: Sarah O'Connor 0432 074 888 sarah.oconnor@opposition.vic.gov.au

Liberal National Coalition