



RORRIS



Time to do right thing

South Coast Labour Council secretary Arthur Rorris

I call on BlueScope to do the right thing and absorb these workers into its workforce.

At a time when the major industrialists are talking of skills shortages, it should not be difficult to redeploy these people.

After all, these industrialists are sending missions to the UK to try to recruit skilled labour.

These job losses come at a time of double-digit unemployment in the Illawarra.

The multiplier effect of the closure will be a major blow to the region, not to mention the terrible impost for the affected workers and their families.

Help doesn't clear Govt

Member for Throsby, Jennie George

It is most distressing news, particularly because of the tight local labour market, with the Illawarra region now recording the highest regional unemployment rate of 8.9 per cent.

While welcoming the Federal Government's assistance package, this does not absolve the Government for its complacency towards the Australian manufacturing industry. Since the Howard government's election in 1996 more than 145,000 manufacturing jobs have been lost, with 60,000 since the re-election in 2004.

The future of a viable manufacturing base in our country depends on a foundation of skills, quality and innovation, not on an industrial relations system based on a drive to the bottom.

GEORGE

