

MEDIA RELEASE

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Forcing migrants to the bush creates conditions for exploitation

The Coalition's policy to force migrants to spend five years in regional communities will create a tinder box of exploitation, according to Unions NSW.

Secretary Mark Morey said:

"We have already seen what happens when you force working holidaymakers to spend 88 days working in the regions. You smash their capacity to negotiate and usher in rampant exploitation.

"Alan Tudge's latest thought bubble is no different. All he is doing is creating a pool of people with a weak bargaining position who are tethered to a community.

"This will put downward pressure on wages for new migrants and the existing workforce. It will also concentrate disadvantage.

"The real world experience of migrant workers is that their social networks of family and community assist them to find decent jobs. If you undermine those networks, you suppress a migrant worker's capacity to seek decent pay and conditions.

"But perhaps that's what the Coalition actually wants.

"If Scott Morrison and Alan Tudge were serious about easing congestion they would create incentives for all Australians to move to the bush.

"Regional communities are already under-resourced with social infrastructure. We have seen no sign of additional funding to support this plan.

"This is an ill-considered thought bubble that ought to be rejected."

Further comment: Mark Morey 0425 231 812