

## Tackling Tasmania's unemployment rate

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The Plan for strong and stable majority  
Government, to get things done

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A majority Hodgman Liberal Government will set a target of reducing Tasmania's unemployment rate to at least the national average, within our first term of Government.

On current numbers, this equates to a 25 per cent reduction in the unemployment rate, in our first term.

Under the Labor-Green minority experiment, unemployment has skyrocketed.

Nearly 20,000 Tasmanians are now languishing on the unemployment queue, and the State has the highest unemployment rate in the country, at 7.9 per cent, compared to a national average of 5.8 per cent.

Tasmania's employment participation rate is now at its lowest level since March 2005, and we have the lowest number of jobs since August 2007.

In the 2010 election campaign Labor promised to create 15,000 new jobs. Instead, nearly 10,000 full-time jobs have been lost.

In 2006, Lara Giddings, then Economic Development Minister said:

*"If the Greens gain the balance of power, businesses will lose the confidence to invest in our state and as a result, Tasmanians will start losing their jobs."*

Sadly, this is one promise that Lara Giddings has kept.

**In contrast, creating jobs will be at the heart of a majority Hodgman Liberal Government.**

Our long-term Plan for Tasmania is focussed on job-creation:

- Getting behind and backing local Tasmanian businesses;
- Making it cheaper and easier to run a business by cutting red and Green tape by 20 per cent;
- Building a modern economy supported by our competitive strengths, including Agriculture and Aquaculture, Forestry, Mining, Tourism and Energy;
- Protecting Tasmanian jobs and businesses from illegal protestors;
- Restoring an international shipping service from Tasmania to key Asian ports;

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- Saying “yes” to development, rather than “no”;
- Backing Tasmanian business, with a Local Benefits Test, Think Local First Campaign, New Market Expansion Program and a pilot Mentoring, Training and Support program;
- Aggressively focusing the State Service on job creation, with a Department of State Growth and high-powered Office of the Coordinator General based in Launceston, to pursue investment, create Tasmanian jobs, and get things done;
- Investing an additional \$16 million in tourism marketing, to help achieve our goal of 1.5 million visitors by 2020, and create 8,000 new jobs;
- A single state-wide planning scheme, which is faster, cheaper, simpler and fairer;
- Waiving water and sewerage developer charges for all new developments, including subdivisions, for a period of two years;
- Disaggregate large government contracts into smaller, more manageable tenders to encourage smaller Tasmanian businesses to tender for government work;
- Creating a job-ready generation by extending high schools to year 12, employing up to 105 new teachers, and making available up to one week of extra paid hours for teacher assistants and support staff.

Many more policies aimed at creating jobs will be announced between now and election day.

**Only a majority Liberal Government will provide the certainty and stability Tasmania needs to create jobs.**

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<sup>i</sup> Lara Giddings, press release, 18/2/06