

Delivering better bus services for regional centres in Southern Tasmania



A MAJORITY LIBERAL GOVERNMENT WILL:

- Double bus services between Sorell and Hobart on week days
- Double bus services between Margate and Hobart on week days
- Increase weekend services between Southern regional centres and the Hobart CBD
- Introduce a common-ticketing system for public passenger transport to allow a one-ticket journey for all travellers



Infrastructure for the 21st Century

Raising the level of bus services to urban-standard across key Southern regional towns

Under a majority Liberal Government the economy is booming and the population is growing steadily.

In Tasmania, jobs are growing at 3 per cent a year. Since the Hodgman Government was elected in 2014 there are now 7800 more people employed in the South of the State.

Many Tasmanians are making the lifestyle choice to raise families in the commuter towns surrounding Hobart.

Despite the increasing popularity of commuter centres such as Sorell and the Southern beaches, Midway Point, New Norfolk, Huonville and Margate, these towns have not enjoyed the same level of bus services as urban areas, which are serviced by State-owned bus company Metro Tasmania.

The Hodgman Liberal Government acknowledges the lifestyle attractions of these satellite towns and will support a dramatic increase in the level of bus services to these centres.

We will make it easier for those who live in these communities to access employment, education, training, services and recreational opportunities.

Increasing the proportion of commuters travelling on public transport has the added benefit of reducing cars on the road, thereby easing traffic congestion. For every full bus on the road, there are up to 50 fewer cars.

The Hodgman Liberal Government is in the process of planning the procurement of public bus services across Tasmania to shape the services for the next 10 years. This plan will ensure a major increase in services to many commuter towns across Tasmania, including the State's South.

As part of the plan the Government is already investing in a common ticketing system to allow a seamless one-ticket journey for those using both Metro and privately-provided bus services (and trans-Derwent ferries). Following an initial investment in its 2017/18 Budget, this system is expected to be in place by 2019/20.

Relevant Targets

#1: Reduce unemployment rate to the best in the country by 2022.

#2: Reduce youth unemployment to at or below national average by 2022.

#3: A 40 per cent increase in apprentices and trainees in the private sector by 2025.

#40: Over the next four years, increase the long-term investment in public infrastructure by 20 per cent



Infrastructure for the 21st Century

Doubling bus services between Sorell and Hobart

The Sorell township and district (including Midway Point and the Southern beaches towns of Lewisham, Dodges Ferry and Carlton) is leading population growth rates in Tasmania's south.

The pressure is increasing on the road network as more and more people commute between Sorell and Hobart to access jobs, schools, and services.

Strong growth in tourist traffic from the East Coast and the Tasman Peninsula is further stretching capacity of the road network. This growing commute time is threatening the liveability of the area.

A re-elected majority Hodgman Liberal Government will invest in a major road infrastructure package to fix the bottlenecks between Sorell and Hobart.

- Leveraging off this infrastructure investment, we will deliver a doubling of bus services between **Sorell** and Hobart commencing in early 2019. Buses will depart every 30 minutes during peak times and hourly for the rest of the day. There are currently 14 services every week day and these will increase to 33 services every week day. Saturday services will increase from 8 to 14 and there will be 14 new Sunday services.
- In the wider Southern Beaches area, **Dodges Ferry and Carlton Beach** will receive a better span and frequency of services including two new Hobart return services on Sundays.
- **Midway Point** services will more than double with the current 14 services every week day increasing to 33 services, as well as 14 services every Saturday and Sunday.
- **Campania and Richmond** will receive two new Saturday services and six new Sunday services.
- The East Coast including **Bicheno, Coles Bay and Swansea** will receive seven-day-a-week services from Bicheno travelling to Hobart through Sorell, up from the current four days a week, allowing residents of these towns to travel to Hobart and return by bus in a single day.

Why Tasmania needs this

Growing urban fringe and satellite towns means increased demand for transport services to and from major centres to ensure access to jobs, education, training, services and social connection.

Competitively priced and more frequent bus services provide social inclusion, while also being the most cost effective and immediate way of reducing road congestion in the Hobart CBD during the mornings and evenings.

Our record in Government

The Hodgman Liberal Government is committed to delivering a sustainable public transport system for Tasmanians both now and in the future.

The 2015-16 budget provided \$1.15M over the forward estimates for a project to plan and procure public bus services across the State for 10 years beginning in 2018. "Project 2018" will deliver a sensible, staged approach to the re-procurement of public bus contracts.



Infrastructure for the 21st Century

Major Increase in bus services between New Norfolk and Hobart

The 35-kilometre journey between New Norfolk and Hobart is acknowledged as a barrier to many community members needing access to jobs, education, training, services and social connection.

The bus services that have been in place over the past 10 years for New Norfolk are not meeting community needs, particularly on weekends.

Under a re-elected majority Hodgman Liberal Government, buses will depart every 30 minutes on week days during peak times and hourly for the rest of the day.

The current 25 services every week day will increase to 34 services every week day.

Weekend services from New Norfolk to Hobart will increase significantly from 18 services to 23 on Saturdays and from eight to 13 on Sundays.

Major increase in bus services between Hobart and Kingborough and the Huon

A re-elected majority Hodgman Liberal Government will significantly improve bus services between Hobart, Margate and Huonville.

Margate will get an additional 20 services per week day rising from the current 28 to 48 services, as well as 15 new Saturday services up from the current 11, and 19 new services on Sunday.

The Channel town of **Snug** will receive eight new Sunday services.

Huonville will get an increase in service frequency on week days, with on average, a service every 30 minutes during AM and PM peak periods and hourly at other times on week days.

Dover will receive an increase in weekday services as well as four new services on Saturday and Sunday.

Our Record in Government

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Project 2018 will deliver on its objectives for communities around the State: namely improved access to employment, education, recreational and other services and improved overall social connectivity.

The Government has taken significant steps with the single biggest investment in public transport in Tasmania's history, delivering 100 new buses (to be assembled in North-West Tasmania, creating jobs in the State's advanced manufacturing industry) and seven new Scania articulated buses, which replaced Metro's ageing 30-year old buses.

Metro's Turn Up and GO service between Hobart and the Eastern Shore has resulted in new direct routes, more frequent services, an expanded and more efficient network, better connections at interchanges and additional evening and weekend services.



Infrastructure for the 21st Century

Introduce a common-ticketing system for public passenger transport to enable seamless travel on both the Metro bus network and privately contracted buses.

A re-elected majority Hodgman Liberal Government will introduce a statewide common ticketing system for public passenger transport services in Tasmania to enable seamless travel for locals and visitors alike.

Bus passengers will be able to use a range of passenger transport systems operated by either Metro or the private sector on a single ticket.

The specific ticketing system to be adopted will be determined in consultation with key stakeholders and will take into account latest developments such as tap and go technology and payment of fares via contactless payment cards or enabled mobile devices.

Labor Green Record

Labor's 'Get on Board' policy is substantially unfunded "magic pudding" and does nothing more than create a new bureaucracy.