Delivering our long-term Plan for a Brighter Future

First year report and second year Plan

March 2015
Delivering our long-term Plan for a Brighter Future

The Hodgman Liberal Government is getting on with the job of delivering our long-term Plan for a Brighter Future

Our vision is a Tasmania:
• That is more self-reliant and open for business, where everyone has the opportunity to enjoy our enviable lifestyle, get a job and raise a family;
• Where we grow the economy and generate wealth so that we can create jobs and afford better essential services like health, education and public safety, and;
• With a responsible Government that lives within its means, has the right priorities and can be trusted.

Our long-term Plan for a Brighter Future will:
• Provide a strong and stable majority Government to get things done, giving hope and confidence for the future;
• Deliver new jobs and economic growth. This is our number one priority;
• Fix the Budget mess. Tasmania cannot continue to live off the credit card. Fixing Labor’s $1.1 billion Budget mess allows us to invest more in essential services into the future, and;
• Rebuild essential services, to make our communities safer and so Tasmanians can get the quality education and health care they deserve;

Our goals
The new Government has set itself a range of ambitious targets and goals, including:
• Jobs - to reduce the unemployment rate to at least the national average;
• Tourists - to attract 1.5 million visitors to Tasmania each year by 2020, creating up to an extra 8,000 jobs;
• Population – to grow the Tasmanian population to 650,000 by 2050;
• Agriculture - to grow the value of the agriculture sector to $10 billion by 2050;
• Aquaculture and fisheries – to double the annual value of our salmon industry to $1 billion by 2030;
• Health – to have the healthiest population in Australia by 2025;
• Education – at the end of the first six years, to be at or above the national standard in every single NAPLAN measurement and meet national benchmarks in reading, writing, maths and science, and;
• Budget – to return the Budget to surplus within six years.

Honouring our Promises
• We are delivering on the commitments we made prior to the 2014 State election.
• This includes; $94 million for job creation and economic growth initiatives across Tasmania, $64 million for education, $92 million for health, $35 million for police and $27 million for community services and support to vulnerable Tasmanians.
• The election commitments were fully-funded by $500 million in savings measures announced well before the election.

Returning to Government after 16 years has been a privilege and an honour, but also a great responsibility.
We inherited a State with significant challenges - an economy that had flat-lined, investment and confidence at record lows and unemployment at a decade-high. Our immediate priority was to stimulate the economy, restore confidence and create jobs by delivering on our long-term Plan for a Brighter Future.
Since the election, nearly 7,000 jobs have been created, and the gap between the national and State unemployment rate has reduced by more than two thirds. Gross State Product is increasing again, construction and building activity is soaring, retail trade had its strongest year and business confidence is the highest in the nation.
Our Plan is working, and while it’s early days and there is a lot to be done, there are very encouraging signs for the future. Tasmania is now headed in the right direction. There is a renewed sense of confidence and optimism about our future. There is no doubt that stable majority Government and a strong, united team prepared to make decisions has helped to provide hope, and restore confidence and certainty for business.
However, our job is not just to fix the economy and Budget, but to build something better; to seize every opportunity and to capitalise on the unprecedented global interest in our island State, and to aggressively pursue economic growth, investment and job creation.
It’s critically important we continue to build on the momentum we have gained from our first year in office. We understand there are no easy fixes and change won’t happen overnight, but we will continue to work hard to clean up the mess we inherited, and deliver a Brighter Future for Tasmania.
With a strong, disciplined majority Government, and by sticking to our long-term Plan, we know that we can deliver even better outcomes for Tasmanians over the next year and into the future.
There is a lot to be optimistic about in 2015, and I am very hopeful about the year ahead.
On behalf of my team, we commit to working hard for Tasmanians to keep the State heading in the right direction.

Will Hodgman MP
Premier

See our plan for the next 365 days on Pages 18-21
“It’s early days, and there is a lot to be done, but there are very encouraging signs for the future.”

- Premier Will Hodgman

Create jobs
- 6,800 new jobs since the election.
- Unemployment rate down 0.8 per cent.
- The gap between the Tasmanian and national unemployment rates is at its narrowest point since October 2011, at just 0.3 percentage points.

Restore Business confidence
- Business confidence is the highest in the nation.

Rein in Budget spending
- Reduced Labor’s $1.1 billion accumulated deficits by $450 million.
- Reduced projected net debt by around $350 million.

Improve the health system
- Record spending of $1.465 billion on health.
- Provided $76 million for additional elective surgery.

Create a Job-Ready Generation
- Record $1.4 billion investment in education and training.
- Extended six high schools to years 11 and 12.
- Employed 25 specialist literacy and numeracy teachers.

Rebuild the forest industry
- Repealed the job destroying forest deal.
- Passed legislation to protect workers’ rights to earn a living.

Cut Red and Green Tape
- Appointed an interim Regulation Reduction Coordinator.
- Passed first tranche of legislation to create one statewide planning scheme.

Rebuild the police force
- An additional 26 police on the beat since the election.

Boost tourism
- Tourism up six per cent to 1.06 million visitors annually.
- Commenced National Parks Expressions Of Interest process.
- Chinese President visited Tasmania, with an estimated 600 million people watching the 10-minute television news item.

Confidence returns
Since the 2014 election, confidence has returned and with it, business activity and private investment, increased consumer spending and an upswing in jobs and economic growth.
- Business confidence in Tasmania is now the highest in the nation.
- Private investment is increasing.
- Tasmania’s participation rate shows a strengthening in the jobs market with levels not seen since 2010.
- Building and construction is soaring. Building approvals in the nine months since the election were 31 per cent higher than the nine months prior. The value of construction work was up 15 per cent in September 2014, compared to the previous year.
- Retail trade had its strongest year.
- Consumers are confident and are spending. Annual retail growth is now the second highest in the nation.
- Tasmanian employment conditions have improved. The gap between the Tasmanian and national unemployment rates is at its narrowest point since October 2011, at just 0.3 percentage points.
- Confidence in the property and construction sector has increased by 17 points - to be the third highest in the country.
- Comsec says: our population growth is at its strongest in two and a half years and there are “brighter signs in Tasmania.”
- Deloitte says, Tasmania’s “recovery looks to have legs.”

First year snapshot

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“Brighter signs in Tasmania”

CommSec, State of the States, January 2015

6,800 new jobs created
Since the election in March 2014, nearly 7,000 new jobs have been created. Tasmania now has the highest number of jobs since December 2008, and higher than any point under the previous Labor-Green Government. Tasmania’s unemployment rate compared with the national average is now the narrowest margin since October 2011.

6,800 new jobs

Highest level of employment since Dec-08. Higher than at any point under Labor and the Greens.

Strong, stable, majority Government delivering hope and confidence

“We said we would deliver stable majority Government to get things done, and that’s exactly what we’re delivering, with a strong, united team prepared to make decisions.”

- Premier Will Hodgman

“Brighter signs in Tasmania”

CommSec, State of the States, January 2015

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Delivering our long-term Plan for jobs and economic growth

Government’s job creation plan working

The Hodgman Liberal Government’s number one priority is jobs. In the first week in office we issued a whole-of-Government directive to make reducing the unemployment rate to the national average the Government’s top priority. A year on, nearly 7,000 new jobs have been created and unemployment has fallen to a 36-month low.

Under the Hodgman Liberal Government, employment has grown by 2.3 per cent since the election, helping an investment of $2 billion a year which employs 17,500 Tasmanians, and;

Investment and jobs underway

• Put in place a new payroll tax relief package, and a Small Business Jobs Bonus to create jobs;
• Partnered with industry and business to create jobs, including a pilot project with Tasmanian Hospitality Association to match job seekers with jobs in the hospitality industry, and with the TCCI to deliver a new training project to increase the work-readiness of job seekers, initially on the North West Coast;
• Created the Department of State Growth to bring together all economic levers;
• Appointed a Coordinator-General to aggressively chase down jobs and investment for Tasmania and developing a Tasmanian Population Strategy to meet our target of growing the population to 650,000 by 2050;
• Extended the First Home Builder boost. Building approvals have increased 2.1 per cent since the election, helping an industry worth $2 billion a year which employs 17,500 Tasmanians, and;
• Invested in new skills and training initiatives – the Whitten Employment Preparation and Placement Program, to support 200 young people enter the workforce or return to study; and the Beacon Foundation program, to prepare young people for work or study.

“Our immediate priority on coming to Government was to stimulate the economy, restore confidence and create jobs.”

Getting behind and backing Tasmanian business

As promised, the Hodgman Liberal Government is backing Tasmanian business. We have:

• Moved to restore international shipping from Tasmania to Asian export markets, to reduce double handling and costs for producers. An Memorandum of Understanding has been signed with Singapore-based Swire as preferred operator, backed by up to $33 million in investment by the Government;
• Passed first tranche of legislation to ensure a fairer, faster, cheaper and simpler planning system;
• Introduced a Buy Local policy and Local Benefits Test that is helping Tasmanian businesses win Government business. This has resulted in Tasmanian businesses winning 64 per cent of government tenders (up from 61 per cent), and an increase in bids from Tasmanian companies (up to 83 per cent compared to 80 per cent);
• Launched the Think Local First campaign to encourage consumers to buy locally;
• Directed all departments to pay bills on time – bills of $50,000 or less must be paid within 30 days, or Departments will pay bills on time for Retail program;
• Delivered $2 million in strategic initiatives to grow our IT sector including free public Wi-Fi services targeting tourists and the Go-to-Market Incubator to nurture potential start-up businesses, and;
• Put in place a new Innovation Collaboration between the Government and University of Tasmania for three years which will focus on industry-research links, and innovation in priority and emerging industries.

We are:

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Unemployment rate

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>January</th>
<th>February</th>
<th>March</th>
<th>April</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Labor-Green</td>
<td>8.0%</td>
<td>7.7%</td>
<td>7.6%</td>
<td>7.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liberal</td>
<td>7.6%</td>
<td>7.5%</td>
<td>7.4%</td>
<td>7.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>6.9%</td>
<td>6.7%</td>
<td>6.6%</td>
<td>6.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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• Stimulated development by abolishing water and sewerage headworks charges. In the six months to December 2014 building and development assessments more than doubled, with 586 plans now assessed per month compared with 288 per month in the same period in 2013;
• Put in place a payroll tax relief support and help our retailers adapt to the changing online environment.
• Delivered on our promised $1.5 million for the hospitality industry (our third largest employer), to help with workforce development, a customer service program and strategic plan;
• Delivered $2 million in strategic initiatives to grow our IT sector including free public Wi-Fi services targeting tourists and the Go-to-Market Incubator to nurture potential start-up businesses, and;
• Put in place a new Innovation Collaboration between the Government and University of Tasmania for three years which will focus on industry-research links, and innovation in priority and emerging industries.
Cutting red and Green tape

As Liberals, we understand that one of the best things government can do for business is get out of the way. We promised to reduce red and Green tape by 20 per cent, and we’re on the job. We have:

- Appointed an interim Regulation Reduction Coordinator. Legislation for an annual red and Green tape audit will be introduced in 2015;
- Partnered with the Federal Government to establish a Major Projects Approval Agency as a one-stop-shop for investors to identify the Commonwealth approvals required for significant projects;
- Released Tourism Tasmania from its bureaucratic strait-jacket and established it as a results-focused, stand-alone authority with a business-based Board;
- Ensured egg safety regulations for small egg producers are the most practical in the country, striking the right balance between food safety and regulation;
- Undertaken a comprehensive review of the building regulatory framework: a Position Paper is out for consultation;
- Removed unnecessary barriers which were delaying novice drivers from getting their driver’s licence;
- Reducing red and Green tape by auditing and more appropriately listing properties on the Heritage Register (recommended in a 2005 review), and;
- Commenced planning reform to introduce one statewide planning scheme.

Making energy a competitive advantage again

The Hodgman Liberal Government is committed to making energy a competitive advantage for Tasmania, by delivering the lowest possible power prices that are genuinely sustainable over the long term. Under the previous Labor-Green Government, power prices increased by more than 65 per cent over seven years. Under the Hodgman Liberal Government, Tasmanians have enjoyed lower power prices, with prices falling by 7.8 per cent or approximately $164 per year for a typical household.

The Government has released a draft comprehensive Tasmanian Energy Strategy with the key aims of:

- Ensuring State-owned energy businesses are run as efficiently as possible to put downward pressure on prices;
- New policies developed supporting energy efficiency for Tasmanian households and businesses;
- Energy concessions properly supporting the most vulnerable;
- Identifying new opportunities to use energy to attract new business and industry to the State; and
- Positioning Tasmania to take advantage of our renewable energy resources.

We are funding the investigation of the case for a second Bass Strait interconnector and the expansion of Tasmanian hydro generation output by 10 per cent, and have just in place as formal agreement with China to jointly develop a Testing Wind Farm to demonstrate Chinese wind turbine technology in the Australian market.

Aurora Energy has put in place the YES (Your Energy Support) Program to provide greater support for Tasmanians struggling with power bills before they become unmanageable.

Investing in Agricultural Prosperity

The Hodgman Liberal Government has set an ambitious target to grow the annual value of our produce to $10 billion by 2050. To achieve this, we have commenced the job of sensible investment to help expand our agriculture industries and food manufacturing capacity, including:

- Increasing freight options for exporters through our investment of up to $33 million into the restoration of international shipping and putting in place a new business model for the TT-Line with 42 more day sailings scheduled over 2015-16, increasing freight capacity;
- Investing $30 million in the second tranche of new irrigation projects around Tasmania;
- Delivering on our promised $6.5 million to grow agriculture, including helping farmers maximise their investment and productivity in irrigation;
- Seizing new opportunities for Tasmanian primary industries by hosting the successful TasInvest forum and participating in the Australian-Sino 100 year agricultural partnership;
- Signing several MOUs with China during the President’s visit. The Premier will also lead a trade and investment mission to China in the first half of 2015;
- Establishing Agrigrowth Tasmania to work with industry to encourage development and jobs growth, including removing red tape and simplifying regulations for the industrial hemp industry;
- Establishing a new Brand Tasmania multilingual website that allows Asian customers to communicate directly with Tasmanian food and beverage producers, while showcasing the State’s premium produce;
- Strengthening biosecurity by investing an additional $900,000, and;
- Reviewing the Primary Industry Activities Protection Act to strengthen the family farm and rural communities.
A tourism bonanza

The Hodgman Liberal Government has a long-term Plan to grow our tourism industry to 1.5 million visitors per year. The industry says this will generate another 8,000 jobs, on top of the 28,000 Tasmanians already employed in the industry. Latest figures show Tasmania recorded its best ever tourism numbers, with 1,062,700 tourists travelling to Tasmania, up six per cent on the previous year, with visitors staying longer and spending more ($1.74 billion, up on the previous year, with visitors staying 1.5 million visitors per year).

The Hodgman Liberal Government has a Long-term Plan to grow our tourism industry, and:

• Has put in place an unsolicited bid to showcase our National Parks and the Tourism Industry, and;
• Has introduced an online parks pass purchasing system to make it easier for visitors to access our National Parks.

World-class aquaculture and wild fisheries

The Hodgman Liberal Government is investing in Tasmania’s world-class aquaculture and wild fishery sectors, to grow our international reputation for the highest quality seafood.

• Is investing an additional $16 million into tourism marketing over the next four years;
• Will be leading a trade mission to China in early 2015 to further strengthen tourism and trade;
• Is opening up our wilderness areas to sensible development through an EOI process;
• Has put in place an unsolicited bid framework for innovative and unique ideas and investment by the private sector;
• Will increase access to our State by a renewed focus on the TT-Line to grow passenger numbers by 64,000 bringing in an additional $220 million in tourism spend to the State by 2023, an extra 42 day sailings each year by 2018, a major refurbishment of the ships showcasing Tasmanian produce and products and a 14.8 per cent average decrease in fares;
• Is investing in the third stage of the Three Capes Track;
• Has invested $500,000 in a marketing campaign so that the Great Eastern Drive can take its place amongst Australia’s iconic road trips;
• Is preparing the groundwork for international capacity with the upgrade of the Hobart Airport;
• Has invited the world to dinner by hosting Restaurant Australia’s grand finale dinner, showcasing our wonderful food to 80 of the world’s most influential foodies and a global audience of more than 400 million;
• Has hosted the Chinese President’s visit and signed MOUs with China;
• Has established Tourism Tasmania as a stand-alone authority with a renewed results focus;
• Has facilitated a landmark MOU between the Parks and Wildlife Service and the Tourism Industry, and;
• Has introduced an online parks pass to grow our tourism industry into the future;
• Invested $752,000 over four years to showcase our resource industries to delegates from around the world, and signed a MOU with CDB, the world’s largest development bank, to pave the way for new investment in industries such as mining;
• Kept promises to fund relocating Mineral Resources Tasmania to Burnie and develop a Mineral Exploration Investment Attraction Plan, and review and extend the Regional Forest Agreement to help rebuild the forest industry;
• Supported the West Coast community with decisive action and funded projects following the shutdown of the Mt Lyell mine, and;
• Invested $752,000 over four years to explore the economic potential of biomass and options for value-adding of forest residues.

Security for our resource industries

Restoring certainty to our resource industries has been a priority of the Hodgman Liberal Government. We will continue to strongly support our forestry and mining industries to grow into innovative, modern industries. The stability of a majority Liberal Government is leading to increased investment, including Forico’s $14 million investment in its Hampshire and Bell Bay mills to lift production capacity, and Australia’s first new limestonemine in more than 35 years at Bald Hill, near Campbell Town, creating 180 jobs. There is still a long way to go before our resource industries recover from the devastation of the Labor-Green Government.

To support these industries and their growth, the new Government has:

• Turned the job-destroying forest deal and unlocked the 400,000 hectares Labor and the Greens locked up;
• Established a review into Forestry Tasmania to put the company on a sustainable footing;
• Protected workers in our resource industries from radical protesters who stop them from earning a living;
• Committed the State Government to reduce debt and continue operating; and;
• Invested $200,000 a year over three years to the T asmanian Shellfish Quality Assurance program, and securing the long-term future of the rock lobster industry with a Rock Lobster transition plan project;
• Seized new opportunities by hosting the successful TasInvest forum, signing several MOUs with China during the President’s visit to strengthen opportunities for Tasmanian industry. The Premier will also lead a trade and investment mission to China in early 2015;
• Delivering security for the industry by committing to no new Marine Protected Areas;
• Fast-tracking a $5.2 million road upgrade at Strahan to support the region’s growing aquaculture industry; and
• Approved an increase in Tassal’s marine farming lease at Nubeene, securing jobs in the local community.
Delivering on our Plan to fix the Budget mess

First Liberal Budget starts repair work

When Labor and the Greens left office in March last year, Tasmania was facing accumulated deficits over the next four years of $1.1 billion and projected net debt rising to more than $400 million. The public sector wages bill alone had blown out by more than $150 million higher in 2013-14 than it was estimated in 2011-12. Tasmania’s credit rating had been downgraded, resulting in higher interest rates on debt.

The Government is determined to fix this mess so we can pay for essential services into the future. Our first Budget halves accumulated deficits over the next four years of $1.1 billion, and puts the Budget back on track to pay the superannuation of retiring public servants.

The Hodgman Liberal Government has a long-term Plan to get the State’s finances back on track. We are reducing spending through a sensible savings strategy, without harming the economy and without introducing new taxes. This includes a three per cent reduction in the size of the public sector this year (after the Government’s preferred wage freeze was rejected by Labor, the Greens and unions), a pay freeze for all MPs and Ministerial staff, a reduction in the cost of Ministerial transport, office accommodation and personal staff, a reduction in boards to save $7 million, and a sensible reduction in the cost of supplies and consumables, including consultancies and advertising.

Getting spending under control

For three years from 2011-12, the Labor-Green Government spent $750 million more than it budgeted for, despite receiving $171 million more than budgeted in revenue.

The previous Government had a spending problem, not a revenue problem.

Labor and the Greens also spent every cent of the $1.5 billion of the Superannuation Provision Account – money set aside to pay for the superannuation entitlements of public sector workers. In 2014-15 a quarter of a billion dollars has to be found from the budget to pay the superannuation of retiring public servants.

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Support for the first Liberal Budget

“Tasmanian farmers today gave the thumbs up to allocations in Treasurer Peter Gutwein’s first Budget … the Government has delivered on their promises and those promises largely coincided with what we have been seeking, and seeking in some cases for many years.”

– Ian Davis, Chief Executive, TasOz

“Tasmania cannot continue to live off the credit card. The Liberal Government is fixing the $1.1 billion Budget mess, so that we can pay for essential services into the future.”

– Luke Martin, CEO, Tourism Industry Council

“Pleasing to see Government deliver on its pre-election commitments … The Government is demonstrating its support for the seafood industry.”

– Neil Stump, Chief Executive, Tasmanian Seafood Industry Council

“… fair in the current circumstances, it delivers all of the Government’s election promises, and provides a solid base from which to halt the decline, grow the economy, jobs and investment and ensure essential frontline services in education, health and police are improved … establishes a sound footing for economic recovery.”


“We think the sort of priority given to the community sector, for example the $9 million every year for the next four years to make up for the Commonwealth shortfall in concessions is a very important funding amount and will ease the burden for struggling Tasmanians.”

– Tony Redy, TasCOSS

The Revised Estimates Report showed that the budget is on track to deliver what we said we would in the 2014-15 financial year and we remain on target to deliver a surplus within six years.

The graph shows Labor’s disastrous budget outcomes, with the white showing the massive improvements in the Budget under the Hodgman Liberal Government.

“First Liberal budget charts course for growth.”

– Tim Johnstone, State President, Property Council

“With the Tasmanian economy really starting to move you don’t want to cause any shock to it, so it seems to be a really smart approach. I think that most sectors would be happy.”

– Michael Bailey, CEO, Tasmanian Chamber of Commerce and Industry

“... fair in the current circumstances, it delivers all of the Government’s election promises, and provides a solid base from which to halt the decline, grow the economy, jobs and investment and ensure essential frontline services in education, health and police are improved … establishes a sound footing for economic recovery.”


“This Government has talked a lot about tourism both in opposition and in government and they have put their money where their mouth is.”

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“At TasCOSS, we think the Government has delivered on its promise to us, the community sector. We have been seeking, and seeking in some cases for many years, more support and flexibility to work with the people we support.”

– Tony Redy, TasCOSS

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– Michael Bailey, CEO, Tasmanian Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Delivering on our Plan to rebuild essential services

Making our communities safer

The Hodgman Liberal Government is delivering on its promises to increase police numbers and support police to do their job, improve road safety and invest in fuel reduction strategies to help prevent devastating bushfires in our local communities. To make our communities safer, the Government has:

- Recruited 26 new constables as part of our commitment to employ an additional 108 new police officers on the frontline. We have established a Serious and Organised Crime Unit, which will have a cold case capacity, after it was axed by the former Labor-Green Government;
- Passed legislation to help protect police from assaults, with a minimum mandatory jail sentence for those convicted of causing serious bodily harm to on-duty police officers, and invested in new multi-use integrated protection vests for all police officers;
- Sentenced 515 people to a total of 2945 years imprisonment for unlawful firearms possession, a level of sentences not seen in any other Tasmanian government;
- Commenced a significant upgrade of the Midland Highway, with six projects designed for improved safety, including flexible safety barriers, road widening, audible edges and removing roadside hazards;
- Commenced the roll-out of checks for those who work with children, to reduce the incidence of abuse, with significant subsidies for volunteers;
- Delivered our promise to invest $28.5 million into bushfire management, establishing a Fuel Reduction Unit and completing burn-offs on public and private land ahead of the bushfire season. We have also invested, with the Australian Government, in improved aerial firefighting resources for Tasmania;
- Provided our Surf Life Saving Clubs with a major funding boost;
- Invested in eight new fixed speed cameras as part of our plan to save lives and reduce serious injuries on our roads;
- Commenced a significant upgrade of the Midland Highway, with six projects designed for improved safety, including

Health reforms to focus on patient care and prevention

The Hodgman Liberal Government inherited a mess in health, with unacceptably high waiting lists, the RHH redevelopment in chaos, some of the worst public health outcomes in Australia, and a duplicated and costly health system that was failing to deliver the services Tasmanians deserve.

The Hodgman Liberal Government has begun the process of rebuilding health services and redesigning the system to ensure patients are at the forefront of every decision. To achieve this we:

- Will move to a single Tasmanian Health Service from 1 July 2015, to deliver significant savings to reinvest into health and get our hospitals working effectively together;
- Have established the Health Council of Tasmania to provide expertise and strategic advice to Government;
- Released a Green Paper on delivering Safe and Sustainable Clinical Services in Tasmania;
- Are investing an additional $76 million into elective surgery, as part of a record $1.465 billion spending on health in 2014-15 (up five per cent on last year’s budget);
- Are gradually increasing the number of graduate nurse placements each year, providing an additional 85 placements; Have put the RHH redevelopment back on track, while adding a helipad, a safe

patient plan, a new hyperbaric chamber and an extra $2.4 million for mental health;
- Are investing $300,000 into grassroots mental health support through Neighbourhood Houses;
- Have commenced the Rethink Mental Health project to improve coordination and provide the strategic plan for the next decade;
- Have undertaken a major review into drug services in the North-West;
- Have significantly reduced ambulance ramping at the Royal Hobart Hospital by reopening a four-bed unit;
- Have employed another six graduate paramedics onto crews in the North-West;
- Are delivering on our promise to reintroduce child and youth health nurses into schools, mid-2015, and;
- Have opened a new hybrid theatre at the Launceston General Hospital to deliver better health outcomes.

We are rebuilding essential services to make our communities safer, and so Tasmanians can get the quality education and healthcare they deserve.

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Creating a job-ready generation

The Hodgman Liberal Government is investing a record $1.4 billion into education and training in 2014-15, with a minimum five per cent increase in the cash component of school resource packages for every public school, and laying the foundations to create a job-ready generation. We have:

- Appointed 25 new literacy and numeracy specialists;
- Increased teacher assistant hours;
- Provided additional funding to extend six high schools to year 11 and 12 in rural and regional communities;
- Scottsdale High School;
- Smithton High School;
- Huonville High and Dover District High schools, in partnership, and;
- St Helens and St Marys district high schools, in partnership, resulting in an increase of almost 30 per cent in year 11-12 enrolments in these schools, based on preliminary figures;
- Invested in new skills and training initiatives for young Tasmanians - the Whitston Employment Preparation and Placement program, to support young people entering the workforce or return to study; and the Beacon Foundation program, to prepare young people for work or further study;
- Established an autism-specific unit to be piloted at Lindsfarne North Primary School (commencing Term 2, 2015);
- Partnered with the University of Tasmania on the Bigger Things Project in a pilot between Huonville High and Hobart College for five years, to support students, parents and teachers;
- Secured the future of school chaplains in Tasmanian school communities;
- Released a discussion paper on the 20-year-old Education Act. The review canvasses all aspects of the legislation including compulsory starting and leaving school ages;
- Supported TasTAFE to transition to a more competitive operating model;
- Commenced a Centre for Educational Attainment in partnership with the University of Tasmania to ensure an evidence-based approach to improving educational outcomes in Tasmania;
- Fully funded the state’s contribution to Gonski over six years, and;
- Established an independent task force to examine support for students living with disabilities.

A hand up for Tasmania’s most vulnerable

The Hodgman Liberal Government delivered on its pledge to help Tasmania’s most vulnerable, providing a record $235 million to the community sector in 2014-15. This funding has bolstered Tasmania’s support system and provided greater certainty in the Community Services sector. We have also:

- Commenced the development of a joined-up human services support system in partnership with the community sector;
- Appointed a Commissioner for Children with a strengthened tenure and role;
- Continued to support the National Disability Insurance Scheme, by increasing State Government funding to $232 million at full rollout plus an additional $2 million for those outside the NDIS trial cohort;
- Delivered on our promise of $1.7 million to Neighbourhood Houses to continue supporting local communities;
- Commenced the development of a 10 year State Affordable Housing Strategy;
- Developed a new framework to strengthen support for vulnerable children and commenced Stage 1 of Out of Home Care reform;
- Established the Autism Advisory Panel to develop a Statewide continuum of care for people living with autism.

- In partnership with Save the Children, invested in the expansion of youth justice diversion programs;
- Supported Tasmanians affected by sexual assault through additional investment into professional training and expansion of after hours services;
- Strengthened delivery of child and youth services to families in the North West through co-location of professional teams;
- Developed a three strikes policy to respond to anti-social behaviour in Housing Tasmania properties;
- Funded a new parent advocacy service that provides families in the Child Protection system with better access to advice and support;
- Invested additional funding to family support services including the new Kentish Family Support Service and provision of emergency support including respite care to families;
- Committed to the National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children and launched the Second Action Plan, Moving Ahead 2013-2016;
- Committed to the purchase of land for a new youth residential and training facility for the North West;
- Reviewed and overhauled the Homeshare and Streets Ahead housing schemes;
- Delivered on our promise of additional operational funding of $9 million to the community sector over four years, to supplement the current levels of indexation;
- Committed to providing TasCARES with extra funding to effectively measure outcomes;
- Launched the inaugural Women and Girls in Tasmanic Report;
- Finalised the transfer of 35 per cent of Housing Tasmania properties to community housing organisations, and;
- Launched a new Gambling Prevention Program, an accredited training resource to assist General Practitioners in responding to patients presenting with gambling issues.
The next 365 days...

The following non-exhaustive list provides a snapshot of the Government’s planned achievements in the coming year.

Quarter 1 (15 March-30 June)

- Stage Two of Expressions of Interest to invest in our national parks and World Heritage areas commences
- Premier’s Trade and Investment mission to China
- Implement China Engagement Strategy
- Determine International Shipping agreement with Swire Shipping
- Finalise governance arrangements for the Royal Hobart Hospital redevelopment project
- Release A Safer Midland Highway 10 year action plan
- Deliver the Hodgman Liberal Government’s second Budget on May 28
- Launch the Tasmanian Energy Strategy
- Release One State, One Health System, Better Outcomes White Paper
- Release review into Mental Health Services to improve outcomes
- Announce Round Two schools for Year 10 students – My Education
- Introduce legislation to strengthen penalties for firearm offences
- Tasmania Police recruit course graduation and new recruit course intake
- Appoint Infrastructure Tasmania Chief Executive Officer and announce forward work program
- Contract announcements for TT-Line refurbishment project
- Complete public consultation for the new draft Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area Management Plan
- Launch marketing strategy for Great Eastern Drive
- Launch Beer Tourism Strategy
- Finalise new events funding model
- Release draft Statewide Planning Scheme Legislation for consultation
- Introduce Director of Public Prosecution and Solicitor-General Act Amendment legislation
- Legislative victims of crime representative on the Parole Board
- Introduce Criminal Conviction Levy legislation
- Receive Legal Aid Commission Review report
- Release Women on Boards Strategy 2015-19
- Reset our relationship with the Tasmanian Aboriginal community
- Introduce legislation to streamline the process for dam works approval
- Announce tender opening for rollout of free Wi-Fi across the State
- Continue partnership with University of Tasmania to establish a Centre for Educational Attainment
- Initiate first Education programs for the Developing Our Workforce Initiative
- Introduce legislation to strengthen penalties for firearm offences
- Receive final report from Office of the Anti-Discrimination Commissioner on expunging historic convictions for homosexual acts
- Finalise Population Strategy
- Second police recruit intake for 2015
- Receive legislative and governance review of the arts sector report
- Introduce Statewide Planning Scheme

Quarter 2 (1 July - 30 September)

- Implement 2015-16 Budget Initiatives
- Introduce legislative changes to reduce red tape in the building industry
- Undertake major refurbishment project on Spirits of Tasmania
- Decision on Southern woodchip export option investigations
- Merge three THOs into single, state-wide Tasmanian Health System (THS)
- Implement charges and redesign services arising from the Health White Paper
- Progress draft of Integrated Freight Strategy
- Implement reforms to improve the effectiveness of the response to family violence
- Launch Affordable Housing Strategy, to drive innovation and supply over the next decade
- Sentencing Advisory Council investigation into alternatives to suspended sentences progress report delivered
- First tranche of legislation for the mandatory treatment of sex offenders
- Commerce Project Endeavour to acquire replacement police vessel
- Introduce Charter of Budget Responsibility Bill and Financial Management Bills
- Introduce legislation resulting from Liquor Act Review
- Finalise MOU with Beacon Foundation to assist students to continue education, training or become job-ready
- Commerce School Health Nurse program in schools
- Release government response to the independent review of the education of students with disabilities
- Commerce Stage 2 of Out of Home Care system reform
- Ensure a job-ready workforce for the full roll out of the NDIS
- Resource the development of 15-20 food cooperatives throughout Tasmania
- Introduce Right to Appeal legislation on the basis of fresh and compelling evidence
- Receive final report from Office of the Anti-Discrimination Commissioner on expunging historic convictions for homosexual acts
- Finalise Population Strategy
- Second police recruit intake for 2015
- Receive legislative and governance review of the arts sector report
- Introduce Statewide Planning Scheme
Quarter 3 (1 October-31 December)

- Implement 2015-16 Budget Initiatives
- Following industry consultation, introduce to Parliament the Industrial Hemp Bill
- Commence the relocation of Mineral Resources Tasmania to Burnie
- Release draft of integrated freight strategy for stakeholder and public consultation
- Establish an independent process to review child death and serious injury
- Introduce Commissioner for Children legislation
- Call for expressions of interest from schools for Round Three of Years 11 and 12 extension
- Launch the refurbished TT-Line Spirits and expanded sailing schedule
- Sentencing Advisory Council to advise on mandatory sentences for sex offenders
- A Safer Midland Highway: commence Perth-Broadabane highway duplication and further safety improvement projects
- Launch Macquarie Point EOI process
- Commence the one year review of the police assault mandatory sentence provisions
- Launch Tasmanian Climate Change Action Plan
- Complete Stage Two of the Three Capes Track
- Install first free Wi-Fi locations
- Release the Data Centre Action Strategy for Tasmania
- Launch second round of EOI process for sensible development in our wilderness areas
- Launch our Fair Share of Defence Spending Strategy
- Develop a strategic plan to grow jobs and investment in the creative sector

Quarter 4 (1 January - 14 March, 2016)

- Implement 2015-16 Budget Initiatives
- Final consultation on penultimate draft of contemporary Education Act following review and extensive consultation
- Commence rollout of Round Two schools for Year 11 and 12 extension
- Continue implementation of the School Health Nurse program
- Launch a new Tasmanian Suicide Prevention Strategy
- Prepare for demolition of ‘B Block’ and ‘B Fan’ as part of the Royal Hobart Hospital Redevelopment
- New police vessel project completed
- Release the State of Our Roads 2015 State Road audit
- Unveil draft 10-year Roads For Our Future plan
- Announce with Road Safety Advisory Council the new 2016-2025 Tasmanian Road Safety Strategy plan
- Analysis of the Queensland safer distance trial (A Metre Matters)
- Sentencing Advisory Council investigation into alternatives to suspended sentences final report
Flashback: Why Tasmania needed a change of Government

Labor and the Greens left the Tasmanian economy and the Budget in a mess. The economy had flat-lined, thousands of jobs had been lost, essential services were slashed, and business confidence was low. At the 2014 election, Tasmanians voted decisively to change the Government and change their future.

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-leaflet text

Schools face axe, police and health massive cuts

Apple Isle dipped into recession

Tassie economy goes backwards

State jobs crisis out of control

Alarm as finance report reveals spiralling deficit

NW loses 50 jobs a week

Bryan Green defends Greens

Your Tasmanian Liberal Team