

Taking King Island to the next level



A MAJORITY LIBERAL GOVERNMENT WILL:

- Upgrade the King Island Hospital
- Upgrade the King Island airport runway apron
- Invest in vital community services and infrastructure
- Invest in King Island's competitive strengths like high-value agriculture and tourism
- Secure a reliable long-term King Island freight service



Investing in health and Tasmanians in need

The Hodgman Liberal Government is a strong supporter of the King Island community's aspirations for economic growth, job creation and enhancing the liveability of their unique home.

A re-elected Hodgman majority Liberal Government will continue to invest in the key areas of transport, freight, community infrastructure, health, education, tourism and agriculture to ensure that King Island remains a great place to live and raise a family, to run a small business, to farm beef and dairy cattle, to fish, to surf and to spend a holiday.

Health

\$10.5 million for Stage 2 of the King Island Hospital redevelopment

A re-elected Hodgman majority Liberal Government is committed to our remote and regional hospitals. Following design consultation with the local community, we will build the next stage of the King Island Hospital redevelopment.

These significant works will include palliative care and associated family rooms, acute care and observation areas, improved emergency and after-hours access and a kitchen upgrade. The redevelopment will also include construction of dedicated housing for nurses working and living on King Island, to improve recruitment and retention. The redevelopment will commence in 2018/19, and will be staged over four years, with completion by 2022.

Tourism Infrastructure

\$220,000 for the King Island Airport

We will invest with the King Island Council in the next stage implementation of the King Island Airport Masterplan to accommodate the increase in passenger and freight movements and underpin Island economic growth.

Proposed works include extensions to the sealed airport runway apron and freight precinct, including hard stands for parking aircraft. It will support Council's efforts in seeking additional federal funding for proposed future upgrades such as cross runway extensions, freight sheds and fencing.

Our Targets

Grow the annual farm gate value of the agricultural sector to \$10 billion per year by 2050

#11: *A 10% increase in small business employment by 2022*

#13: *A 50% increase in the average per visitor spend by 2022*

#20: *Keep cost of living increases for Government services, on average, at or below the rate of inflation for the next four years.*

#27: *Ensure the retention rate of students from Year 10-12 is at or above the national average by 2022*

#28: *75% of all students in year 12 to complete their TCE by 2022*

#40: *Over the next four years, increase the long-term average investment in public infrastructure by 20%*

The Tasmanian Liberals' Plan



Building Tasmania's infrastructure for the 21st Century

Our airport investment will mean job creation as Island businesses invest in support of greater airport capacity and increased tourism. It will also provide greater connectivity for Island residents seeking medical treatments off-island as well as more efficient access to the Royal Flying Doctor Service. The airport will all be better able to accommodate charter flights, as well as regular airline services.

Community Infrastructure

For the first time **Phoenix Community House** will be recognised as a *Remote Community Neighbourhood House* and **receive ongoing recurrent funding of \$120,000 per annum**. This will provide the House with long-term certainty that they can continue their important role in supporting local community well-being. Working with the King Island Men's Shed and Community Garden, Phoenix House delivers a range of approaches to engaging vulnerable and disadvantaged community members, improve access to services and build the capacity and sustainability of the King Island community.

\$120,000 over 2 years towards the proposed King Island Service Centre Hub in Currie which would consolidate Local and State Government services into one central and visible location. This also includes the potential to co-locate a proposed new Tourism and Visitor Experience Centre – investing in new visitor infrastructure is a priority of the *King Island Destination Action Plan*.

Currie has many dispersed service facilities across Council, the LINC (Library), Service Tasmania, the Online Access Centre, State Government Offices as well as various community organisations.

An initial \$20,000 to King Island Council will scope the feasibility, preferred site and prepare the detailed designs and construction approvals required in consultation with the community and all local organisations that require ongoing accommodation. One site option is potentially refurbishing the King Island War Memorial Park building to increase available space.

The Service Centre Hub would free up other buildings that could be repurposed to meet emergent demand for accommodation or other needs. A subsequent \$100,000 is for seed funding to invest with Council the capital works required to build the Centre.

Why Tasmania Needs This

We recognise King Island's proportionally strong contribution to the Tasmanian economy.

Primary industries are the mainstay of the King Island economy, underpinned by a world-renowned premium quality brand for its beef, dairy and seafood products.

This high-value brand is now expanding into the fast growing tourism market through internationally-ranked golf experiences with increased visitors and interest in the island.

We also understand that this growth and success, combined with its remote location and cost of living, means that the King Island community has its own unique challenges.



Delivering a stronger economy and more jobs

\$100,000 for infrastructure upgrades to the King Island Racing Club will help provide a contemporary venue for patrons and racing participants. We are committed to the continued growth of the racing industry, and community racing clubs are an important part of this growth, particularly in rural and regional areas. The unique King Island Racing Club is important for the local community, providing economic activity and significant social benefits to King Island.

\$20,000 to King Island Council for a Telecommunications action plan. The reliability of telecommunications and internet speeds and variable access, create significant issues on the island impacting on local business, visitors and every day needs. The King Island Council has identified microwave connections, mobile blackspots and NBN connectivity as priority telecommunications projects to meet increased tourism, business and community needs.

Working with King Island Council we will accelerate development of a telecommunication services joint business case for Australian Government infrastructure investment. By working together we can put the Island's best foot forward for accessing federal support programs to address critical gaps and issues.

Agriculture

An additional \$255,000 over 4 years for biosecurity will provide practical support to landholders to tackle weeds, pests and other issues affecting agricultural production. With approximately 20% of Tasmania's beef herd, King Island is a critical part of our plan to grow the annual farm gate value of the agricultural sector to \$10 billion by 2050.

Protecting the relative pest and disease free status and reputation of King Island is a vital part of growing farm production and profitability. In our first term the Hodgman Liberal Government made the Island's DPIPW biosecurity and wallaby management officer roles permanent. Adding a second biosecurity officer role will further enhance the services provided to support agricultural productivity, complement increased tourism and the airport upgrades and overall, help protect King Island's environment.

Our record in Government

In our first term of Government we delivered for King Island:

- ✓ Development of the King Island Destination Action Plan.
- ✓ \$600,000 to upgrade car parking and traffic management at King Island School.
- ✓ Secured a long term (ten year) sustainable provider of Rural Medical Services for King Island
- ✓ \$112,000 upgrade to King Island Hospital and Health Centre.
- ✓ \$10,000 for Phoenix House
- ✓ Extended the Target 120 program supporting beef producers which saw over \$1.3 million delivered in transport assistance and a specialist extension officer to support farm productivity.
- ✓ \$50,000 for a business case for a multi-species abattoir
- ✓ \$200,000 in additional Parks and Wildlife staff to support the management of reserves and Crown Land.
- ✓ \$49,000 to the Council for Town Mater Plans for Currie, Naracoopa and Grassy
- ✓ \$650,000 to make the DPIPW King Island Wallaby Officer and Biosecurity Officer roles permanent.

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Delivering a stronger economy and more jobs

King Island farmers will also continue to benefit from the Hodgman Liberal Government's **comprehensive AgriFood Plan** delivering a range of programs in the key areas of research, development and extension, farm productivity, supporting farming families and rural communities, agriskills and in enhancing Tasmania's agri-food brands and reputation.

Investing more in education

As part of our plan to build a job ready generation of Tasmanian students, by 2022 the **King Island District High School has the opportunity, with support of the local community, to extend to Year 12.**

One of the most effective ways we can increase the number of students completing Year 12 is to provide for educational pathways that meet the needs of all Tasmanian students.

By extending high schools we ensure that students can choose to complete their senior secondary school education at their local school, recognising that there may be barriers to students accessing College or other further education and training.

King Island students currently travel off-island to continue their senior education. We understand that what students need to be able to complete Year 12 is not a 'one-size fits all' solution and we are committed to working with school communities to find innovative ways to encourage students to stay in education longer.

To be clear, King Island students and their families will only benefit under a re-elected majority Hodgman Liberal Government. If a Labor-Green minority Government is elected, they will halt our Year 11-12 extension and infrastructure upgrades and will try to close schools.

Double freight capacity

The Hodgman Liberal Government understands how vital a reliable and competitive freight link is for the King Island community, as well as for business and continued economic growth on the island.

Our record in Government

Continued

- ✓ \$40,000 capital funding for BBQ shelters at Penny's Lagoon
- ✓ \$25,000 for a deer management plan
- ✓ \$30,000 for Rural Alive and Well

The Tasmanian Liberals' Plan



Delivering a stronger economy and more jobs

We stepped in to provide certainty and operate reliable shipping services when private-sector operations ended. The new \$10 million ship the *John Duigan* has been purchased by TasPorts and will soon be on the Bass Strait servicing the shipping needs of King Island. It will continue to be operated by Bass Island Line, a wholly-owned subsidiary of TasPorts and provides double the capacity of the current vessel, meaning it can more than meet the current freight and livestock demands of the Island, in addition to having capacity for future growth. The new ship will run on a triangular service between Grassy on King Island, the North West of Tasmania and Victoria.

We will continue to consult with the community on what the ideal long-term solution for the Island will be, including the possibility of a new, custom-built ship.

Cost

TasPorts is funding the \$10 million capital cost of the ship *John Duigan*.

Funding to enable King Island School to potentially extend to years 11 and 12 is available under the \$30.5 million Job ready Generation 2.10 policy.

The additional cost of this King Island package is \$11,695,000.

Labor Green Record

Labor and then the Labor Green minority government in 16 years delivered nothing but uncertainty and questions for King Island residents on their biggest concern – freight. They cannot be trusted to deliver a reliable freight solution or the other long term infrastructure needs of the King Island community.