

Crackdown on shoplifting



A MAJORITY LIBERAL GOVERNMENT WILL:

- Make it easier for retailers to ban entry to shops
- Legislate to enable retailers to inspect customer bags as a condition of entry
- Provide small retailers no-interest loans to install high-quality CCTV
- Increase police presence in shopping precincts



Keeping Tasmanians safe

Retailers given power to inspect customer bags

Under current laws, a retailer must employ a licensed security guard if they want to search a customer's bag while inside their business premises.

For many businesses this is too costly and as a result, some retailers choose to employ retail staff in the role of "greeter". Greeters are employed to discourage dishonest behaviour, but they do not have the power to search bags and many shoplifters are all too aware of this loophole.

A re-elected Hodgman majority Liberal Government will legislate to allow retailers, large or small, to make it a condition of entry that customer bags can be physically inspected.

Making it easier for retailers to ban entry

Thieves are often known to retailers. A re-elected Liberal majority Government will make it easier for businesses to lodge restraint orders against repeat offenders so their unlawful activity can be restricted. Tasmania Police will offer advice and guidance on applying for restraint orders and pursuing them through the Courts.

No-interest loans for businesses to install CCTV

High quality CCTV footage has revolutionised security systems around the world and plays a very important role in detection and prosecution.

A re-elected Hodgman majority Liberal Government will provide no-interest loans to small businesses which want to install good quality, high-definition digital recording cameras.

Police on the beat to ramp up activity in shopping precincts

With Tasmania on track to restoring police numbers, Tasmania Police have higher visibility now than ever before.

With additional police officers now on the beat, a re-elected Hodgman majority Liberal Government will work with Tasmania Police to ramp up high-visibility policing in shopping precincts.

Our Target

#32: The lowest serious crime rate in the nation across all victimisation measures by 2022

Why Tasmania Needs This

Every Tasmanian deserves to live in safety and free from the impact of crime.

The overwhelming majority of Tasmanians are law-abiding citizens. But for some anti-social offenders and petty criminals, retail theft has become all too common.

Retailers, large and small, are being targeted by thieves, putting a significant financial burden on business and increasing the cost of living for all Tasmanians.

Too often offenders take advantage of loopholes in the law which allow them to steal from retailers with little or no consequence.

We have consulted retailers and have heard their frustration about being virtually powerless to act.

We have been told of thieves, sometimes operating in small groups, distracting retail staff, stealing products and then walking out the door challenging retailers with comments such as: "you can't touch me" as they leave with the unpaid goods in a bag, trolley or under clothing.

Keeping Tasmanians safe

Cost

Funding pool of \$2 million. Maximum loan of \$10 000 per business, three year repayment terms. \$250,000 over three years (interest)

Labor-Green Record

The former Government cut more than 100 police from the frontline which meant there were fewer police on the beat when we came to office in 2014, than when Labor came to power 16 years earlier.

Key facts

The Australian Retailers Association estimates the cost of shoplifting equates to 3.5% of all turnover.

In Tasmania, retail turnover is \$6.175 billion, so losses from theft equals \$216 million a year.

While this is a significant cost to businesses, ultimately the consumer pays with higher prices and increased cost of living pressures.

Our record in Government

Crimes including home and business burglaries, public order incidents and drink driving have all dropped and drug offender prosecutions and clear up rates have increased in our term of Government.

The Hodgman Liberal Government makes no apology for sending a strong message to the community that Tasmanian laws should be respected and those that don't will be caught and prosecuted.

Since coming to Government, the Liberals have reversed the savage Labor-Green cuts to police numbers.

While the former government cut 108 police officers, we are on track to replace them and more, with 113 more officers on the force under this Government, taking total numbers to 1233.

We have committed record funding to police and emergency services in our first term and will continue to strongly back Tasmania Police.