



## Media Release

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25th May, 2017

Will Hodgman, Premier

## **2017-18 Budget: Building Tasmania's Future**

This year's Budget is all about Building Tasmania's Future.

With the biggest ever boost to health in a single budget - \$650 million and 106 hospital beds – it puts health front and centre.

This additional investment will be spread right around the state but will particularly target the Royal Hobart Hospital which is under pressure as a result of increased demand and temporary capacity constraints due to the hospital redevelopment.

Jobs, particularly jobs for young Tasmanians, are also a key focus of the 2017-18 Budget, with a package providing incentives to employers, including small business, to employ young Tasmanians.

In this Budget we are also taking action against cost of living pressures. We are taking action to cap electricity prices, which will save the average household around \$300 on their power bill in the coming 12 months. And, by taking control of TasWater, we'll deliver lower prices to customers, saving the average household up to \$550.

We're also making it more affordable to build your first home, with a New Housing Incentive Package, which includes the First Home Builders' Boost, and reducing stamp duty on house and land packages.

In education we are investing more – including funding the "full Gonski", \$117 million to upgrade our schools, and we're employing more school staff to help our kids get a better education.

Supporting Tasmanians in need features strongly in the Budget, with an additional \$45 million to strengthen the child protection system. And, we're acting to keep Tasmanians safe, with funding to put more police in our community, and provide them with the latest equipment, body-worn cameras, to help them protect us.

This Budget's \$2 billion investment in infrastructure is spread right around the State - for example, we're building a new hospital in St Helens; there's \$35 million to upgrade the Mersey Hospital at Latrobe; and in Launceston we're providing funds to revitalise Launceston with the University of Tasmania and City Heart projects.

There's also over \$800 million investment in roads and rail, with new projects including the Perth Link Road, the Mowbray Connector, and a \$19 million bridge upgrade program.

We're continuing to invest in our economy's competitive strengths, with a \$37 million boost for tourism which includes \$8 million for tourism infrastructure in our national parks, \$44 million to support agriculture and aquaculture to continue to employ Tasmanians, as well as further investments into our mining and forestry sectors.

Most importantly, the Budget continues our strong fiscal discipline, with a small surplus this year, and surpluses every year across the forward estimates.

We've kept spending under control, since our election and through to the end of the budget's forward estimates, with spending growth rate to be around 2.4 per cent, while the annual growth in revenues over the same period is forecast to be 2.7 per cent.

By comparison, under the last eight years under Labor and the Greens, spending grew at 4.8 percent.

We're absolutely committed to keeping the Budget in balance, because it means we can continue to invest more in essential services, and build Tasmania's future.

Contact: Brad Nowland

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25th May, 2017

Peter Gutwein, Treasurer

## **2017-18 Budget: Balanced Budgets Each and Every Year**

The 2017-18 Budget is all about Building Tasmania's Future.

It is a Budget which builds on our three years of hard work in Government.

It delivers better health and education services, more jobs, better roads and transport, action on cost of living, and continued investment in essential services such as public safety and supporting Tasmanians in need.

In our first Budget we had to take some difficult but necessary decisions to stem the bleeding.

Our second Budget was about consolidating the State's financial position, and the third delivered last year - albeit after losing nearly \$500 million in GST - was about reinvesting back into health, education and other essential services.

This Budget, the fourth budget delivered as a part of our long-term plan, will ensure that the hard work that has gone on over the last three years and the results that have been achieved are not squandered.

It continues our strong plan for Tasmania and delivers not only a balanced budget bottom line, but also key initiatives and sensible investments that will build Tasmania's future.

Our economy continues to grow, and is forecast to expand above trend by 2.5 per cent in 2017-18.

When businesses are confident as they are under us, they invest more and they employ more people – since the election there are now over 6400 more Tasmanians with jobs. At 5.8 per cent, our unemployment rate is equal to the national average, and is one of the lowest among all States.

The 2017-18 Budget forecasts a surplus of over \$54 million in 2017-18, and we will remain in surplus each and every year of the Forward Estimates for the first time in a decade, with a cumulative surplus of just over \$200 million.

And rather than forecasting rising net debt as the State did three years ago, we now have a strong balance sheet and this budget forecasts positive net cash and investments across the forward estimates.

Net Cash and Investments will be more than \$450 million as at 30 June 2018, which is an improvement of more than \$277 million relative to the estimated 30 June 2018 figure in last year's Budget.

We know like any household or business does that you must cut your cloth to suit your circumstances, that you can't keep spending more than you earn and expect to retain a strong financial position.

Over the life of the Government under our settings the annual growth in spending through to 2020-21 is estimated to be around 2.4 per cent, while the annual growth in revenues over the same period is forecast to be 2.7 per cent, which is well below the long run trend of revenue growth of 4.7 per cent.

### **Key initiatives in this year's Budget include:**

- The biggest ever boost to health, \$650 million and 106 beds;
- A package of measures to support around 7,600 young Tasmanians in jobs;
- Action on cost of living which will save households \$300 on the cost of electricity, up to \$550 over six years on water and sewerage, and make it cheaper to build your first home;
- \$117 million for new and better school and TAFE buildings, \$134 million in "full Gonski" funding for our schools, and \$17.8 million to employ more specialist teachers to help our students get better results;
- \$44 million to support agriculture and aquaculture, and improve biosecurity;
- A \$37 million boost to tourism, including \$11 million for marketing, \$8 million for Parks, \$6 million to support the Cycle Tourism strategy, and an additional \$6.8 million to Cradle Mountain;

- \$44.8 million to improve our child protection system and \$53.4 million towards rebuilding Tasmania's police service;
- A \$2 billion infrastructure spend right around the state, including \$827 million on roads and bridges;
- \$27 million to continue the very important fuel reduction program; and
- An additional \$100 million into the TT-Line Ship Replacement Fund.

Contact: Brad Nowland

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Building Tasmania's Future

TASMANIAN BUDGET  
**2017-18**



25th May, 2017

Michael Ferguson, Minister for Health

## **Biggest Ever Boost to Health**

The health of all Tasmanians is a top priority for the Hodgman Liberal Government, which is why we're boosting health funding to over \$7 billion in the State Budget.

This represents a record increase of \$658 million over four years - an increase of \$1.3 billion compared to the last Labor-Green Budget in 2013-14.

We're Building Tasmania's Future with better hospitals and health services, significantly increasing bed numbers and employing more nurses and doctors.

The \$7 billion recurrent investment in health means:

- 106 more beds and more hospital staff across Tasmania - \$144.4 million;
- Securing and boosting mental health services across the state - \$16 million;
- Continuing to implement our One Health System reforms - \$16.9 million;
- Establishing a THS Statewide Operations and Command Centre to deliver better care - \$6 million;
- Securing a second medical and police search and rescue helicopter - \$9 million; and
- Rolling out the medical cannabis Controlled Access Scheme - \$3.75 million.

The 2017-18 Budget also demonstrates a focus on major hospital and health infrastructure, with a massive \$493.7 million investment in a range of projects including:

- The Royal Hobart Hospital Redevelopment - \$388.7 million;
- Mersey Community Hospital upgrade - \$35 million;

- Hospital upgrades and maintenance across the state - \$17.9 million;
- Glenorchy and Kingston health centres - \$12.5 million;
- Launceston General Hospital 4K children's ward - \$7.7 million;
- A new ward at the Hobart Repatriation Hospital - \$7 million; and
- A new St Helens District Hospital - \$11.4 million.

As we have shown throughout our first term, the Hodgman Government has always been willing to do what we must to provide Tasmanians with the health care they need and deserve.

With ongoing record health investment we are getting on with the job – we're redeveloping the Royal Hobart Hospital, employing more nurses and doctors and opening more beds.

Contact: Rosita Gallasch

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25th May, 2017

Matthew Groom, Minister for State Growth

## **Supporting 7,600 New Jobs for Tasmania**

The Hodgman Liberal Government's number one priority is jobs.

Under our long-term Plan, 6,400 jobs have been created and the unemployment rate has dropped to 5.8 per cent, the second lowest rate of any state in the country, but there is still a lot more to do.

That's why this Budget will contain a game changing job creation package, so that we can build Tasmania's future. It will help support 7,600 jobs right around the State.

The centrepiece of the package is a \$25 million youth employment strategy that will give young Tasmanians a helping hand to land a job. If we can help more young people find work, we will help them stay in Tasmania and build a future right here at home.

### **The \$25 million youth employment strategy includes:**

- \$17.1 million in payroll tax relief for businesses that employ apprentices, trainees and young people;
- Grants of up to \$4,000 for small businesses to employ a trainee or apprentice;
- \$4.1 million to partner with TasCOSS and the TCCI to remove barriers which limit job opportunities for young people, such as transport;
- \$600,000 for Whitelion's Work Ready program to target high risk youth aged 16 to 24; and
- \$1.1 million for the Workforce for Now and the Future initiative, including the Driving for Jobs trial to help young people get a driver's licence by blending driver training with education and vocational training.

There are a number of other measures in the Budget that will help all Tasmanians right around the State find work, such as the \$60 million Tasmanian Economic Stimulus Scheme, which alone will support up to 800 direct and indirect jobs and will allow councils to bring forward much needed infrastructure projects.

Not only will our \$2 billion Infrastructure Plan help build the infrastructure that Tasmanians need, it will also help Build Tasmania's Future by supporting workers and creating new opportunities for Tasmanians that see a future for themselves in the building and construction sector.

The reason we can invest in these job-creating initiatives is because we have balanced the Budget.

Contact: Brad Nowland

Phone: 0439 614 893

25th May, 2017

Matthew Groom, Minister for Energy

## **Keeping Downward Pressure on Power Prices**

The Hodgman Liberal Government knows that power prices are a real cost of living concern for Tasmanians.

That's why in the 2017-18 Budget the Government is acting to keep power prices as low as possible for households and businesses.

This year, wholesale power prices, which make up a significant component of the average household and business power bill, have been rising due to the blackouts in South Australia and the closure of the Hazelwood power station in Victoria.

The Government will not let these massive price hikes be passed on to Tasmanian customers. We have already introduced legislation to cap power price increases at around two per cent for the next 12 months, at a cost of around \$70 million in forgone revenue. This means that the average household will save around \$300 over the next 12 months.

The Government, in cooperation with Hydro Tasmania, has recently announced that it will, at a cost of around \$10 million to \$15 million provide lower pricing to medium to larger business customers that can't access the regulated market.

The Budget will also contain an additional \$20 million relief for medium-sized businesses that may be affected by higher power prices. Businesses affected by rising wholesale prices will be eligible to receive additional support. This will assist those customers that entered into contracts earlier this year between the first of January and prior to Hydro lowering the wholesale price.

These measures together with foregone revenue represent an investment of more than \$100 million to ensure that power bills for Tasmanian households and businesses are the most competitive in the nation, which is good for households and good for jobs.



Building Tasmania's Future

TASMANIAN BUDGET  
**2017-18**

Contact: Brad Nowland

Phone: 0439 614 893

25th May, 2017

Rene Hidding, Minister for Infrastructure

## **Infrastructure Investment Tops \$2 Billion**

The Hodgman Liberal Government is Building Tasmania's Future through investing more than \$2 Billion in job-creating infrastructure over the next four years.

This includes \$245.2 million in new spending in this Budget.

Across Tasmania, our infrastructure investment will help to grow the economy, create jobs – our number one priority, and deliver essential services, including education and health.

On top of Tasmania's largest ever health infrastructure project, the Royal Hobart Hospital redevelopment (\$389 million), the Liberal Government will deliver another \$104.7 million for hospital and health-related infrastructure.

Education will receive a \$117 million investment in our schools and TasTAFE, with \$28.8 million of this for new projects.

Almost \$830 million will go to building better roads around the State.

To support our frontline services, we will be investing \$67.5 million in Information and Communications Technology (ICT) upgrades.

There is significant infrastructure spending in human services – particularly housing (\$120.3 million), tourism, recreation and culture (\$39 million) and also in law and order (\$23.5 million).

Another \$100 million has also been allocated to the TT-Line Ship Replacement Fund.

All around the State, Tasmanians will see the benefits of the Liberal Government's strong investment in infrastructure, made possible by our Budget discipline.

Contact: Chris Medhurst

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Building Tasmania's Future

TASMANIAN BUDGET  
**2017-18**



25th May, 2017

Will Hodgman, Premier

Peter Gutwein, Treasurer

## **Over \$140 Million to Build the Future for the North West and West Coast**

The 2017-18 Budget has more than \$140 million in projects designed to build the future for the North West and West Coast.

These measures will support jobs, help grow the economy and improve services on the North West and West Coast.

These projects are in addition to the \$730 million that we secured from the Federal Government for the Mersey Community Hospital, and include an increased allocation of \$21.8 million<sup>+</sup> for the Cradle Mountain Visitor Centre and \$15 million<sup>+</sup> in funding for the North West's share of the Northern Cities Major Development initiative.

### **Specific budget measures for the North-West and West Coast include:**

- North West Regional Hospital - 8 beds and staffing - \$12 million
- Mersey Community Hospital upgrade - \$35 million
- North West Regional Hospital new dedicated Nurse Training facility - \$2.2 million
- Bass Highway bridge upgrades - \$6.4 million
- Foodbank distribution base in Devonport - \$400,000
- Circular Head new aquatic centre - \$3.5 million
- Dial Regional Sports Complex upgrade- \$3.5 million

- Devonport Golf Club multi-purpose sports clubhouse - \$3.5 million
- East Devonport Primary School - \$1.75 million<sup>+</sup>
- Latrobe High School - \$10 million<sup>+</sup>
- Parklands High School - \$9.1 million<sup>+</sup>
- Somerset Primary School - \$1.75 million<sup>+</sup>
- Boat Harbour Primary School - \$1.8 million
- Spreyton Primary School - \$1.66 million
- Upgrading visitor facilities at The Nut - \$150,000
- Zeehan Neighbourhood Centre - \$25,000<sup>^</sup>
- Rosebery Community House - \$25,000<sup>^</sup>
- Copper Mines of Tasmania - projects essential for restart of Mt Lyell mine - \$9.5 million
- Mining industry - projects supporting new technologies and best practice - \$1 million
- West Coast tourism infrastructure - \$400,000
- Phoenix House supporting local community well-being - \$10,000
- Construction of BBQ shelters at Penny's lagoon - \$40,000
- Extending the King Island Wallaby Officer and Biosecurity Officer - \$650,000
- King Island School car parking and traffic management - \$600,000
- King Island hospital upgrades - \$600,000

The Tasmanian Liberal Government can afford to invest significant funds back into the North West and the West Coast because we have balanced the budget and got Tasmania's finances back on track.

\*includes funding already allocated

^includes \$10,000 one-off bonus payment

Contact: Brad Nowland

Phone: 0439 614 893



Building Tasmania's Future

TASMANIAN BUDGET  
**2017-18**

25th May, 2017

Will Hodgman, Premier

Peter Gutwein, Treasurer

## **Over \$175 Million to Build the Future for the North and North East**

The Government is committed to building the future of the North and North East, with this Budget having over \$175 million worth of projects for the area.

These projects will support jobs, help grow the economy and improve services right around the North and North East.

These projects are in addition to the North's share of major road infrastructure upgrades, including significant upgrades to the northern parts of the Midland Highway.

### **Specific Budget measures for the North and North East include:**

Launceston General Hospital Ward 4D - 19 beds - \$35.8 million

John L Grove Rehabilitation Centre - 20 beds - \$20 million

Northern Cities Major Development Initiative - \$50 million<sup>+</sup>

Mowbray Connector / East Tamar Highway junction upgrade - \$7 million

Northern Suburbs Community Centre construction - \$1.7 million<sup>+</sup>

Elphin Sports Centre - \$230,000

Silverdome upgrade - \$1.9 million<sup>+</sup>

Midland Highway bridge upgrades - \$1.1 million

Launceston City Deal including City Heart revitalisation - \$5.8 million

Tamar Estuary Management Taskforce - \$500,000

Queechy High School - \$5 million<sup>+</sup>

Riverside Primary School - \$2.5 million<sup>+</sup>

Riverside High School - \$12 million<sup>+</sup>

East Launceston Primary School - \$4.5 million<sup>+</sup>

Expansion of Thyne House Youth Supported Accommodation - \$1.6 million

Missionbeat, Launceston mobile food van helping those in need - \$20,000

Northern Stadium Strategy - \$100,000

Continuing support for the Launceston 10 and Stan Siejka Cycling Classic - \$140,000

Launceston Chamber of Commerce - \$150,000 to support a business liaison officer to link local industry to procurement opportunities including those that will emerge from the University of Tasmania relocation project.

Northern Tasmania Development Corporation - \$140,000 for a regional economic development strategy

Brid River Jetty replacement - \$500,000

Bridport Road bridge upgrades - \$1.95 million

Dorset Community House - \$25,000<sup>^</sup>

George Town Neighbourhood House - \$25,000<sup>^</sup>

Mt Strzelecki track upgrade - \$40,000

Blue Derby Mountain Bike Trails - \$800,000

Additional support for Tranche 2 Irrigation including Scottsdale Irrigation Scheme - \$17.5 million

New Campbell Town Ambulance Station - \$3 million

Bass Highway bridge upgrades - \$3.25 million

Ben Lomond Ski Patrol - \$120,000

Tresca Community Centre - \$25,000<sup>^</sup>

Beaconsfield House - \$25,000<sup>^</sup>

The Liberal Government can afford to invest significant funds back into the North and North East because we have balanced the Budget and got Tasmania's finances back on track.

\*includes funding already allocated

<sup>^</sup>includes \$10,000 one-off bonus payment

Contact: Brad Nowland

Phone: 0439 614 893



Building Tasmania's Future

TASMANIAN BUDGET  
**2017-18**



25th May, 2017

Will Hodgman, Premier

Peter Gutwein, Treasurer

## **Over \$180 Million to Build Southern Tasmania's Future**

The 2017-18 Budget has over \$180 million earmarked for investment in projects in Southern Tasmania.

These projects will improve services, support jobs and help grow the economy in the South.

They are in addition to the massive investment in the redevelopment of the Royal Hobart Hospital that is underway and significant road upgrades around the region.

### **Specific Budget measures for Southern Tasmania include:**

- \$76.6 million to open 59 new hospital beds and staffing
- Repatriation Hospital new ward - \$7 million
- Royal Hobart Hospital Pharmacy Redevelopment - \$3.8 million<sup>+</sup>
- Hobart Traffic Congestion Management - \$1.8 million
- Bonnet Hill road improvements - \$1.4 million<sup>+</sup>
- Hobart Women's Shelter - \$3.8 million
- Loui's Van, mobile food van helping those in need - \$20,000
- Rugby Park upgrade - \$250,000
- Hobart College - \$2.5 million<sup>+</sup>

- Lenah Valley Primary School - \$3 million<sup>+</sup>
- Taroona High School - \$5 million
- Lansdowne Crescent Primary School - \$4.73 million
- TasTAFE Drysdale upgrades - \$3.2 million
- New biotoxin testing laboratory to support seafood industry - \$1.2 million
- New Glenorchy Health Centre - \$6.7 million<sup>+</sup>
- Brooker Highway bridge upgrades (Berriedale) - \$2.05 million
- Construction and operation of new Moonah Youth Facility - \$4.9 million
- Austins Ferry Primary School - \$5.5 million<sup>+</sup>
- Windermere Primary School - \$5.5 million<sup>+</sup>
- Bucaan Community House - \$25,000<sup>^</sup>
- Goodwood Community Centre - \$25,000<sup>^</sup>
- Karadi Aboriginal Corporation - \$25,000<sup>^</sup>
- West Moonah Community House - \$25,000<sup>^</sup>
- Midland Highway Jordan River bridge upgrade - \$350,000
- Ellendale Road bridge upgrade - \$1.05 million
- Sorell School - \$3.75 million<sup>+</sup>
- Oatlands Swimming Pool redevelopment - \$2 million
- Three Capes Track Stage 3 - \$4 million<sup>+</sup>

- Tasman District School - \$4 million<sup>+</sup>
- Molesworth Primary School - \$1.9 million
- Derwent Valley Community House - \$25,000<sup>^</sup>
- Bridgewater Community Centre - \$25,000<sup>^</sup>
- Dunalley Tasman Neighbourhood House - \$25,000<sup>^</sup>
- Gagebrook Community Centre - \$25,000<sup>^</sup>
- Okines Community House - \$25,000<sup>^</sup>
- Pittwater Neighbourhood House - \$25,000<sup>^</sup>
- Building new Kingston Health Centre - \$5.8 million<sup>+</sup>
- Huon Highway bridge upgrades - \$850,000
- Woodbridge Jetty replacement - \$700,000
- Snug Primary School - \$2.5 million<sup>+</sup>
- Southern Support School - \$4.3 million
- Illawarra Primary School - \$2.9 million
- Cockle Creek campground site and boat ramp upgrade - \$150,000
- Bruny Island Neck visitor facilities upgrade - \$700,000
- Bruny Island Main Road Neck upgrade - \$3.19 million<sup>+</sup>
- Southern Outlet Proctors Road Underpass strengthening - \$300,000
- South Coast Track upgrade - \$250,000

- Geeveston Community Centre- \$25,000<sup>^</sup>
- Maranoa Heights Community Centre - \$25,000<sup>^</sup>
- West Winds Community Centre - \$25,000<sup>^</sup>
- Risdon Vale Bike Collective mentoring youth - \$50,000
- Clarendon Vale Neighbourhood Centre - \$25,000<sup>^</sup>
- Risdon Vale Neighbourhood Centre - \$25,000<sup>^</sup>
- Rokeby Neighbourhood Centre - \$25,000<sup>^</sup>
- Warrane Mornington Neighbourhood Centre - \$25,000<sup>^</sup>
- Supporting development of international hospitality training college, Bellerive - \$200,000
- Montagu Bay Primary School - \$1.75 million<sup>+</sup>
- New orange-bellied parrot breeding facility at Five Mile Beach - \$3.2 million

The Liberal Government can afford to invest significant funds back into the South because we have balanced the Budget and got Tasmania's finances back on track.

<sup>+</sup>includes funding already allocated

<sup>^</sup>includes \$10,000 one-off bonus payment

Contact: Brad Nowland

Phone: 0439 614 893

25th May 2017

Jeremy Rockliff, Deputy Premier, Member for Braddon

## **Comprehensive Support Package for King Island**

The Hodgman Liberal Government is a strident supporter of the King Island community and has developed a comprehensive Budget package for the Island.

The Government and TasPorts appreciate and acknowledge the level of concern surrounding the current temporary shipping service and we are working hard with the King Island community to resolve this issue.

We remain committed to securing a long-term triangular service between Victoria, Tasmania and King Island and one of the options we are investigating is for the Government to invest in a purpose-built ship to service the freight needs of King Islanders.

Good town planning is also vital, which is why we recently awarded a \$49,000 Community Infrastructure Fund grant to the Council to help develop a master plan for Currie, Naracoopa and Grassy to help guide the Island's exciting future.

This is in addition to the existing \$25,000 for the development of a deer management plan and \$50,000 for a business case for a multi-species abattoir.

The 2017-18 State Budget confirms an extremely strong level of support for King Islanders by investing directly in the community, agricultural productivity and protecting the Island's unique environment.

In recognition of King Island's strong agricultural sector, through DPIPWE an additional \$200,000 over four years will increase the Parks and Wildlife staff on the Island to support the management of reserves and Crown Land.

Also, an extra \$650,000 package over the forward estimates secures the King Island Wallaby Officer and Biosecurity Officer roles. These vital positions are currently fixed term and by making them permanent it adds certainty for the entire farming community.

Through the Department of Education King Island children will also benefit from additional resourcing that will give them access to a school health nurse and they will also benefit from an increase in the number of professional support staff, with the focus on child and student wellbeing.

Other funding support for King Island includes:

- \$40,000 capital funding for construction of barbecue shelters at Penny's Lagoon
- \$600,000 allocated for car parking and traffic management at King Island School with works to commence later in 2017
- \$10,000 for Phoenix House to continue their important role supporting local community well-being.

The Liberal Government will continue to consult and work with the King Island community to tackle difficult issues and identify worthwhile opportunities that support and create jobs.

Contact: Martin Gilmour

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25<sup>th</sup> May, 2017

Will Hodgman, Minister for Tourism, Hospitality and Events

## **Strong Support for Tasmania's Visitor Economy Continues**

Tasmania's visitor economy is booming with a record number of visitors staying longer, and spending more in our State.

In the State Budget 2017-18 we're investing \$37 million more to build on this unprecedented growth in tourism, which supports local businesses and jobs right around the state.

The 2017-18 Budget includes:

**An additional \$11 million for Tourism Marketing.** This funding will be directly invested in domestic and international marketing programs to stimulate demand for travel to Tasmania. Tourism Tasmania will undertake additional marketing activities which build on Tasmania's distinctive tourism brand, connecting people culturally and emotionally to Tasmania - what sets us apart as a destination.

**\$8 million to deliver flagship tourism experiences in national parks.** The Tourism Infrastructure in Parks Program provides a further \$8 million over two years to continue the delivery of flagship tourism experiences in national parks and other reserves across the State. Tasmania is increasingly becoming recognised as a world class eco-tourism destination and this initiative further builds on that reputation.

**An additional \$6.8 million towards a Visitor Centre at Cradle Mountain** and associated infrastructure, along with viewing facilities at Dove Lake. The Budget also includes ongoing investment in stage 3 of the iconic Three Capes. This stage of the development will provide improved access to Cape Raoul and Shipstern Bluff.

**\$6 million as part of our Cycle Tourism Strategy to support new experiences and improve existing trails around Tasmania.** This includes \$1 million already announced for the St Helens Mountain Bike Trail Network to create a unique stacked-loop trail as part of expanding the larger Derby to Blue Tiers project.

**\$3.2 million to turn Drysdale into a Centre of Excellence** to produce a new generation of tourism and hospitality workers who are trained to the latest and best industry standards.

**A further \$1.7 million to progress the Visitor Engagement Strategy, Workforce Development, and Destination Action Plans.** This funding will build on ground breaking work being done to better understand what visitors want, assist in the development of strategies to ensure we attract more skilled workers into hospitality and tourism, and ensure that we have the right infrastructure in place across the state to meet growing visitor demand.

**\$245,000 to the Tasmanian Hospitality Association to further the Great Customer Experience program,** this funding will also enable the THA to host a state-wide hospitality conference later in the year.

Tourism is a one of our greatest competitive strengths and showcases all that is great about our State. The Government is committed to supporting the development of new experiences and ensuring visitors have a memorable time when they are here to keep Tasmania the nation's premier tourism destination.

Contact: Brad Nowland

Phone: 0439 614 893



25<sup>th</sup> May, 2017

Will Hodgman, Premier

## **Continued Commitment to Eliminate Family Violence**

The Tasmanian Liberal Government remains firmly committed to eliminating family violence.

The 2017-18 State Budget is all about Building Tasmania's Future; a future which should be free from family violence.

**The Budget includes \$15.4 million over the next two years** to continue our nation leading Family Violence Action Plan which has grown to include 23 separate actions.

**A new initiative is a trial of electronic monitoring of high risk family violence offenders** (in partnership with the Australian Government). This will involve a target group of high risk perpetrators who have a monitoring condition placed on them as a condition of a Family Violence Order. Perpetrators will have exclusion zones specified in accordance with relevant conditions contained within an order.

The trial will also allow victims the option of voluntarily carrying a small, portable GPS device to enhance the ability of officials to detect breaches involving approaches made to victims outside identified exclusion zones. Monitoring of perpetrators will occur in 'real time' using GPS technology which will alert officials to any breaches, helping to keep women and their children safe. This \$2.79 million initiative will be funded in partnership with the Australian Government.

In addition, significant new funding has been allocated for initiatives right across Government to support victims of family violence and to assist the prosecution of perpetrators, including:

- **\$1.68m for a Family Violence and Sexual Assault Unit** in the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions to increase the chances of successful prosecution and improve victim support;

- **\$420,000 over two years for an Eligible Persons Register** so victims of family violence, if they choose, can be informed of a prisoner's location and progress in the prison system; and
- **\$3.4m over four years to roll out Body Worn Cameras** to all frontline police officers, an important tool in responding to family violence incidents.

With the Budget back in balance we can now afford to invest more in essential services and supporting those who need it most.

Contact: Brad Nowland

Phone: 0439 614 893

25<sup>th</sup> May, 2017

Will Hodgman, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs

## **Additional Support for Tasmania's Aboriginal Community**

The 2017-18 State Budget reflects a deep respect for Tasmania's First People, and their history, but also for the role the Aboriginal community can play in Building Tasmania's Future.

Funding of \$278,000 has also been allocated to the Aboriginal Land Council of Tasmania to develop the wukalina cultural walk project as an exciting new tourism venture on the East Coast. The Tasmanian Government is committed to helping to develop indigenous tourism to tell the story of our past, allow visitors to better understand Aboriginal heritage and culture, and provide an exciting new element to Tasmania's booming tourism sector. The funding will assist with the start-up costs of the project, including infrastructure development.

The Budget provides new, permanent, funding of \$250,000 per annum to increase the number of Tasmanian Aboriginal people in the public service. As part of the Tasmanian State Service Diversity and Inclusion Policy Framework, this initiative will deliver specific employment programs that target and affect Aboriginal and young Tasmanians, such as pathway development programs, scholarships, identified roles, mentoring and training programs. It's about a whole of Government coordinated approach to get Aboriginal people into jobs and we will work closely with the community, stakeholders, and agencies to develop, implement and monitor these programs.

This new funding is in addition to an investment last year of almost \$24 million in existing and new Aboriginal programs and services over four years to support the implementation of services in education, child protection, family violence and joint land management.

Funding will continue to support:

- An additional two trainee rangers to support the role of the Aboriginal community in joint land management;
- The recognition of the Aboriginal cultural values of the Tasmanian Wilderness Heritage Area;
- Aboriginal women and children affected by family violence; and
- The employment of two Aboriginal Liaison Officers as part of Strong Families Safe Kids, the Government's commitment to improving the child protection system.

The Government remains committed to closing the gap in education, health and community outcomes for Tasmanian Aboriginal people, and advancing reconciliation through important reforms such as the formal recognition of our First People in Tasmania's Constitution.

Contact: Brad Nowland

Phone: 0439 614 893

25<sup>th</sup> May, 2017

Will Hodgman, Acting Minister for the Arts

## Tasmania's First Dedicated Youth Arts Strategy

The Tasmanian Liberal Government is Building Tasmania's Future and supporting young Tasmanians into jobs in the cultural and creative industries through the establishment of a dedicated Youth Arts Strategy.

The 2017-18 State Budget provides \$1.44 million in new funding to support and invigorate Tasmania's youth arts sector, improving social health, wellbeing and employment opportunities through arts education and engagement.

Importantly, this funding will assist to identify pathways into professional careers, provide greater opportunities for participation in Tasmania's cultural life and increase the motivation and engagement of Tasmania's young people.

The Tasmanian Government is a strong supporter of the cultural and creative industries. More than 9,000 Tasmanians are directly employed in the cultural and creative industries or in cultural and creative occupations, with countless more employed indirectly through the related tourism, hospitality and retail sectors.

The State Budget also includes:

- **Additional funding of \$500,000 per annum for Ten Days on the Island**, assisting it to reposition the festival to focus primarily on regional Tasmania;
- **Additional Screen Production funds of \$300,000** for the second season of *Rosehaven*; and
- **Further significant additional funding of \$700,000 for the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery** to continue their program of important organisational reform that will help to secure its long term future as a premier cultural and tourism destination.



Building Tasmania's Future

TASMANIAN BUDGET  
**2017-18**

Contact: Brad Nowland

Phone: 0439 614 893

25th May, 2017

Peter Gutwein, Treasurer

## **\$60 Million in Budget for TasWater to Speed Up Infrastructure Upgrades**

TasWater will have \$60 million more to speed up their infrastructure upgrades under the Government's plan to take control of TasWater.

This year's Budget provides \$20 million a year from 2018-19 to be paid to councils rather than TasWater paying them, exactly the same amount councils are entitled to under the current ownership structure.

By providing these funds through the Budget, rather than out of TasWater itself means that TasWater will have an additional \$60 million to support the acceleration of infrastructure upgrades across the first three years of our ownership.

This means Councils have absolutely no justification for rate rises as a result of the TasWater takeover.

The Tasmanian Government's plan to take control of TasWater is all about providing better infrastructure and services, at a lower price.

Under local government ownership water and sewerage prices have been forecast to rise by five per cent each year over six years.

At the same time, it is predicted it will be 10 years before water and sewerage services are brought to an acceptable standard – assuming that TasWater can meet its own deadlines, which in the past it has failed to do.

Under our plan price rises will be capped at 2.75 per cent in our first year of ownership and then between 2.75 per cent and 3.5 per cent, each year saving the average customer up to \$550 over a six year period.

In addition, we will deliver the water and sewerage upgrades quicker, supporting around 1000 new jobs in the sector.



Building Tasmania's Future

TASMANIAN BUDGET  
**2017-18**

We are Building Tasmania's Future by ensuring Tasmanians have the essential services they need and deserve, and that includes quality water and sewerage infrastructure.

Our TasWater takeover plan is fair all around – fair to the consumer, fair to councils, and fair to the broader community – and the Government remains resolute in ensuring it is delivered.

Contact: Brad Nowland

Phone: 0439 614 893



25th May, 2017

Peter Gutwein, Treasurer

Guy Barnett, Minister for Building and Construction

## **New Housing Incentive Package**

The Hodgman Liberal Government is committed to making housing more affordable for Tasmanians.

We are already rolling out a nation-leading \$73.5 million Affordable Housing Action Plan that is delivering on our commitment to build over 900 new homes and affordable housing options for 1600 Tasmanian households in need.

But we know that more needs to be done, especially to help people enter the housing market.

That's why the 2017-18 Budget contains a New Housing Incentive Package, which will make it easier for Tasmanians to build new housing.

The Package has five key features:

- We are making it easier for Tasmanians to build their first home by extending the \$20,000 First Home Builders Grant for another 12 months.
- Stamp duty will only have to be paid on the value of land for eligible house and land packages, providing stamp duty relief of around \$7500 on the average cost of a standard "off the plan" house and land purchase. This measure will be backdated to 14 May, the day this measure was first announced.
- Simplifying supply side levers such as planning rules and building regulations cuts red tape and makes it easier to build a home and increase housing stock, so this Budget allocates \$300,000 to assist councils to finalise their local planning rules so they can become a part of the Statewide planning scheme at the earliest opportunity.
- To complement our nation-leading planning and building reforms this Budget invests \$1.9 million into iPlan, a one stop online shop for building and planning approvals.

- Finally, the Government can make housing more affordable by increasing the supply of land available for development.

Various Government departments and Government businesses have significant land holdings and we have tasked Treasury with conducting a review to determine what land may be suitable for repurposing for housing to increase the availability of supply to either support the Government's Housing Affordability Strategy or to the broader housing market.

An Affordable Housing Working Group will also be established to be jointly led by Housing Tasmania and Treasury. Membership will include Non-Government Organisations that support vulnerable Tasmanians, as well as those organisations that represent the home building and construction sector. This will ensure we get the maximum community benefit from any land identified as part of the audit.

It is expected that this review will be completed later this year.

Through this process, the Government wants to help make the dream of owning your own home a reality for more Tasmanians.

Contact: Brad Nowland

Phone: 0439 614 893

25th May, 2017

Michael Ferguson, Minister for Health

## **Delivering 106 More Beds and More Staff**

The Hodgman Liberal Government is delivering more funded beds and more frontline staff to Tasmania's health system.

While we are investing record amounts into health, opening more beds and employing more staff, we know there's still a long way to go.

That's why in the 2017-18 Budget we are providing the biggest ever health funding boost to open an additional 106 beds across the State, all designed to provide better health care for all Tasmanians and more timely access.

This significant investment will focus on addressing acknowledged Emergency Department pressures at all of our hospitals, with the second stage of our Patients First initiative rolling out, as well as opening even more new beds.

The 106 additional beds comprise the 50 new beds announced in March but only funded until 30<sup>th</sup> June this year.

This funding will now be continued in the coming Budget and across the forward estimates; plus:

- John L Grove Rehabilitation Unit – 20 beds previously not funded for operation beyond 30<sup>th</sup> June this year;
- LGH Ward 4D – an additional four beds, bringing the total number of beds opening to 19;
- RHH Emergency Department – 10 beds; and
- Hobart Repatriation Hospital – 22 beds.

### **Breakdown of beds by region**

In the South we are funding a total of 59 additional beds. This will be made up of:

- Roy Fagan Centre – 10 beds;
- Hobart Private Hospital – 8 beds;
- Royal Hobart Hospital Intensive Care Unit – 2 beds;
- Royal Hobart Hospital Emergency Department – 10 short stay beds;
- Hobart Repatriation Hospital – 22 beds; and
- New Norfolk Hospital – 7 beds.

In the North, we are securing the future of beds once closed and mothballed by the former Labor-Green Government with Launceston General Hospital's Ward 4D beds to stay permanently open, and extend from 15 to 19.

The Hodgman Government will also secure the future of the important John L Grove Rehabilitation Unit with 20 beds.

This facility has provided many Northern Tasmanians with an improved quality of life and will now continue to do so into the future.

On the North-West Coast we are permanently opening and staffing eight beds at the North West Regional Hospital, and the long term future of the Mersey Community Hospital has now been properly secured.

Since 2014 we have been steadily working to improve the system with increased investments and the One Health System reforms, which were widely consulted and strongly supported by all health organisations.

This Budget recognises that we don't believe the system is as good as it should be.

With the Budget back on track the Hodgman Government has been able to make this significant investment in beds and staff in the state.

We are getting on with the job, and delivering a health system all Tasmanians deserve, where others have failed.

Contact: Rosita Gallasch - Phone: 0417 296 603

25th May, 2017

Michael Ferguson, Minister for Health

## **RHH Redevelopment Support Package**

As the State's major health facility the Royal Hobart Hospital is vitally important to every Tasmanian. The Hodgman Liberal Government will continue to support the RHH with an additional \$76.6 million recurrent funding package in the 2017-18 Budget to address Emergency Department pressures, and an additional \$7 million for important capital works.

With increased demand as well as short-term capacity pressures caused by the RHH Redevelopment, we understand that more needs to be done.

To ease these pressures we opened the new 54-bed temporary inpatient facility to ensure patient and staff safety during the demolition and construction of the 10-storey tower.

The RHH Redevelopment Support Package will open more beds, employ more staff and ensure patients get the best care possible in the most appropriate location.

The Support Package comprises:

- 10 new short stay beds, five treatment chairs and additional triage and ED nurse staffing - \$20 million;
- Operation of a new ward at the Hobart Repatriation Hospital, providing 22 additional staffed beds and freeing up beds at the Royal - \$19.3 million;
- Set up costs of the new beds and treatment spaces - \$3 million;
- Increase orderlies and infection control staffing at the Royal - \$1 million;
- Extend the occupational therapist rapid response initiative, to help keep people out of hospital - \$840,000;

- Increase capacity to treat mental health rehabilitation patients at the Tolosa Street Respite and Rehabilitation Centre - \$2 million; and
- Trial a range of initiatives to improve patient flow through this coming winter, including additional allied health support over weekends, extended pharmacy opening hours to assist more timely patient discharge and using the ambulatory care unit for overnight patients to aid patient flow - \$2.4 million.

In addition, the 27 new beds announced in March but only funded until June 30 this year are funded – with \$28.1 million provided over the Budget and across the forward estimates period.

This package is part of the biggest ever investment in health by a Tasmanian Government.

On top of the \$76.6 million recurrent funding boost, \$6 million is provided to establish a THS Statewide Operations and Command Centre to deliver better care with improved patient flow, and new capital funding of \$7 million is provided for works at the Hobart Repatriation Hospital to build new ward space.

This new capital project comes on the back of the success of the RHH Redevelopment.

In the past year a number of milestones have been achieved, including the opening of the 54-bed temporary facility as well as the demolition of the old building set to make way for the new 10-storey tower with helipad.

Ground works are now well underway and construction of the tower is set to begin in coming months.

It's important to remember that while the redevelopment is causing short-term issues, it will mean a new state-of-the-art health facility with capacity for an additional 250-beds when completed in 2019.

I also want to reassure Tasmanians that patient safety remains our number one priority and we won't do anything to compromise that during the redevelopment.

Contact: Rosita Gallasch  
Phone: 0417 296 603

25th May, 2017

Michael Ferguson, Minister for Health

Rene Hidding, Minister for Police and Emergency Management

## **A Second Medical and Rescue Helicopter**

Ensuring we have adequate resources in times of need is behind the Hodgman Liberal Government's decision to spend \$9 million on a second medical and police search and rescue helicopter in the 2017-18 State Budget.

With the Budget back on track this second helicopter will allow more Tasmanians to get the treatment they need sooner and when every second counts.

The addition of this new helicopter will bring the state's fleet to two and secure the continued use of our BK117 helicopter across the Ambulance Tasmania Aero-Medical and Retrieval Service and Tasmania Police Search and Rescue.

At the moment Tasmania has only one BK117 and uses a smaller AS355 as required.

The new helicopter will aid in medical retrievals and search and rescue emergencies – which with the significant increase in tourist numbers to the state, has also seen a rise in the number of flying hours of the fleet from 377 in the 2014-15 financial year to 623 in 2015-16.

It will increase the capacity of both AT's Aero-Medical and Retrieval Service and Tasmania Police Search and Rescue and allow our specially trained air paramedics to provide an important ongoing service, as well as ensure we continue to meet increasing demand from across the state.

The helicopter will be delivered in conjunction with the Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management.

The investment in a second helicopter will further support our Budget spend on patient transport services announced last year, as well as complement the new helipad at the North



West Regional Hospital and those at the Launceston General Hospital and the future rooftop helipad at the Royal Hobart Hospital.

The Hodgman Government is Building Tasmania's Future by continued and ongoing investment in critical services that save lives, and ensuring Tasmanians get the health services they deserve with another year of record investment.

Contact: Rosita Gallasch

Phone: 0417 296 603



25th May, 2017

Jeremy Rockliff, Minister for Education and Training

## Record Investment in Education and Training

With the Budget back in balance the Hodgman Liberal Government is giving young Tasmanians every opportunity for a great future by ensuring they get the best possible education.

We have made record investments in education and training since 2014. In the 2017-18 Budget we are Building Tasmania's Future with a record \$6.36 billion investment aimed at improving educational outcomes and creating a job ready generation of young Tasmanians.

This includes:

- **Fulfilling our Gonski pledge over the full six years** of the original Gonski agreement. This represents \$134 million of state government funding over 6 years.
- **\$6.9 million to employ an additional 14.8 FTE professional support staff** across our Government schools including speech pathologists, psychologists and social workers, to work with students who might not otherwise reach their full potential at school, which in turn improves their education and employment prospects.
- **Acknowledging student health and wellbeing** can impact learning, we are investing \$5 million for student re-engagement programs, developing a new \$1.6 million Child and Student Wellbeing strategy, investing in more School Health Nurses in District schools, and investing \$250 000 in grant funding to Stay ChatTY for suicide prevention and mental health awareness.
- **Developing an education system with more support for students with disability**, with ongoing funding of \$12 million for the reforms from the Ministerial Taskforce over the forward estimates.
- **Continuing our investment in school infrastructure** across the forward estimates –upgrading students' learning environments and growing the Tasmanian economy with a total school and TasTAFE capital program of \$117 million. We are increasing capital assistance to Non-Government Schools, with an additional contribution of \$1.5 million annually for four years.

- **\$57 million over four years to implement the new Education Act** which will improve education outcomes for all young Tasmanians and assist us to reach our goal of leading the nation in education.
- **Encouraging education and careers in primary industries**, we are funding \$300 000 for Primary Schools to Primary Industries. This will support the implementation of the Tasmanian Agricultural Education Framework and build pathways and skills for students into primary industries through greater collaboration between industry and the education system
- **Supporting the Tasmanian Youth Orchestra** with a grant of \$100 000 per year for three years, which will allow them to ensure the orchestra is sustainable into the future
- **\$280 000 for research and seed funding** for strategies to improve the health and safety of our school Principals.

Education is the key to Building Tasmania's Future, and is critical to our next generation reaching their full potential. We remain totally committed to changing an education system that for too long has not given our students the best opportunities.

Contact: Lara Kirkpatrick

Phone: 0436 010 174

25th May, 2017

Jeremy Rockliff, Minister for Education and Training

## Supporting Students Package

The Hodgman Liberal Government's long term Plan for education is working with more students staying in school longer and achieving more.

The 2017-18 State Budget is all about Building Tasmania's Future which is why we are making a \$17.8 million investment in supporting students to get the best education possible.

We want to create a job ready generation of young Tasmanians. By getting the Budget back into balance we can continue to invest in the most significant improvements to our education system in decades, and this package of initiatives will assist teachers and other professionals who work with students to further improve education and employment opportunities for students.

### The \$17.8 million Supporting Students package includes:

- \$4 million over four years to **extend the School Health Nurses initiative** to Government District Schools, which will bring the total staffing to 29.7 FTE. School nurses help students in a number of areas, from mental health, to body image and healthy relationships, as well as the delivery of local, state and national health initiatives.
- \$6.9 million over four years for an additional **14.8 FTE professional support staff** including speech pathologists, psychologists and social workers, to work with students who might not otherwise reach their full potential at school, which in turn improves their future education and employment prospects.
- \$5 million over four years to build on and **extend successful student re-engagement programs** being delivered, to keep our students engaged in learning and to help overcome any barriers preventing them from staying in the school system.

- \$1.6 million over four years to establish a **Child and Student Wellbeing Strategy**, to support students whose health may be impacting their learning.
- \$250,000 to help young people **Speak Up Stay ChatTy** for suicide prevention and mental health awareness.

Education is, and will always be, a priority of this Government. The additional literacy and numeracy specialist teachers we added to schools in our first year in Government are already delivering positive results.

While the 2016 NAPLAN results show we are on track to be at, or above the national average in all NAPLAN measurements, we know we have a long way to go.

There is no better foundation to Build Tasmania's Future on, than education.

Contact: Lara Kirkpatrick

Phone: 0436 010 174

25th May, 2017

Jeremy Rockliff, Minister for Education and Training

## **\$117 Million Investment in Better School Buildings and TasTAFE**

The Hodgman Liberal Government is Building Tasmania's Future through economic growth and job creation in the 2017-18 Budget, investing \$117 million on better school buildings across Tasmanian schools and TasTAFE.

New Government school and TasTAFE infrastructure commitments include:

- **Boat Harbour Primary School:** \$1.8 million for additional learning areas as well as the refurbishment of administration, canteen, library and office spaces and associated facilities.
- **Illawarra Primary School:** \$2.9 million to provide additional learning and support areas, refurbishment of existing classrooms and administration block and upgrade of the library and multi-purpose building.
- **Lansdowne Crescent Primary School:** \$4.7 million to provide additional learning and support areas, refurbishment of existing classrooms and administration block, and upgrade library and multipurpose building.
- **Drysdale TasTAFE:** \$3.2 million over two years to meet demand for the highest quality tourism and hospitality training - includes \$2.65 million in capital funding.
- **Molesworth Primary School:** \$1.9 million to replace a demountable building with permanent contemporary learning and breakout spaces, relocation of the kindergarten playground and upgrade of infrastructure.

- **Queechy High School:** \$5 million for new learning areas, with an additional \$2 million provided to build on the existing project brought forward as part of our Northern Economic Stimulus Package.
- **Southern Support School:** \$4.3 million to provide additional learning spaces with associated independent learning spaces, additional amenities suitable for people with disability, breakout spaces and staff facilities.
- **Spreyton Primary School:** \$1.7 million for a two year project to provide new kindergarten learning facilities, as well as relocation of the playground.
- **Taroona High School:** \$5 million to provide contemporary learning areas, support spaces and music and drama facilities.

As part of our Year 7-12 Implementation Plan, we are investing \$4.5 million for continued construction of new classrooms for Year 11 and 12 extension schools. This is in addition to the \$6 million already allocated.

There is no doubt that Tasmania has changed for the better since the election, but there is more work to be done.

The Hodgman Liberal Government will continue to implement our long term Plan for education to ensure every Tasmanian student can look forward to a brighter future.

Contact: Lara Kirkpatrick

Phone: 0436 010 174

25th May, 2017

Jeremy Rockliff, Minister for Education and Training

## **Better Classrooms for Non-Government Students**

The Hodgman Liberal Government believes all students should benefit from modern school facilities, irrespective of the school they attend.

In the 2017-18 Budget we are Building Tasmania's Future by providing an additional \$6 million over four years for assistance towards capital improvements in Independent and Catholic schools in communities with high socio-economic need. This is more than double the previous allocation of \$1.1 million annually.

This funding acknowledges the integral role Catholic and Independent schools play as part of our State's education system.

The Hodgman Liberal Government has always recognised the importance of all education sectors and parental choice, reflected by our commitment to deliver additional funding of \$36 million over six years to the non-government sector as per the Gonski model of needs-based funding - distributed to where it is needed most.

This funding is part of our Plan to create a job ready generation, and is in addition to our record \$117 million investment in Government schools and TasTAFE upgrades.

Contact: Lara Kirkpatrick

Phone: 0436 010 174



Building Tasmania's Future

TASMANIAN BUDGET  
**2017-18**



25th May, 2017

Rene Hidding, Minister for Infrastructure

## **\$827 Million to Build Better Roads**

The Hodgman Liberal Government is Building Tasmania's Future through investing in the transport infrastructure that will drive our economy forward.

In the 2017-18 Budget, the Liberal Government is investing \$827.4 million to build better roads, right around the State.

Safer roads save lives, and fewer serious crashes mean fewer people are impacted by road trauma, which has an enormous toll on our community.

More efficient roads mean improved traffic flow and save time and money, making our industry more competitive and helping to create jobs – our number one priority.

In 2017-18 alone, more than \$113 million will be invested in the Midland Highway 10-Year Action Plan, with construction to commence on the pivotal Perth Link Roads project. This will improve safety and efficiency by removing heavy vehicles from the centre of Perth as they travel to and from our Northern and North-Western ports. Work will begin this summer.

In the coming year, we will also start several new projects around the State. These include the \$30 million Hobart Airport Roundabout and safety upgrades of intersections on the Bass Highway at Wynyard (\$2.875 million).

Working with industry and local government stakeholders we have also developed the Freight Access Bridge Upgrades program that will facilitate the operation of High Productivity Freight Vehicles on key freight routes, connecting our ports, transport hubs and major industries. More than \$19 million will be invested over four years.

Also funded in this Budget is the \$7 million Mowbray Connector, a project that addresses one of Northern Tasmania's major road safety and traffic hazards by fixing this busy and dangerous intersection with the East Tamar Highway.

Funds will continue to flow to a number of ongoing road upgrades, including:

- Huon Highway / Summerleas Road Intersection - \$15.9 million this year
- Highland Lakes Road - \$4.3 million
- Colebrook Main Road - \$4.29 million
- Esk Main Road - \$4.2 million
- Bridport Western Access Road - \$2.9 million
- Murchison Highway - \$2.8 million
- Bruny Island Main Road - \$2.39 million

We will also invest \$272 million over the forward estimates in vital ongoing maintenance upgrades and line-marking on roads across Tasmania.

In addition, Infrastructure Tasmania, along with key stakeholders, is currently developing Phase 2 of the Roads for Our Future State roads program. Funding for this will be provided from the unallocated capital in the Budget and will be reflected in next year's Budget.

Contact: Chris Medhurst

Phone: 0410 600 400

27 May 2017

Rene Hidding, Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management

## **More Police, New Tools and Additional Support to Keep Tasmania Safe**

The Hodgman Liberal Government is committed to a safer Tasmania.

In the 2017-18 Budget, we are Building Tasmania's Future by funding more police, and new technology, housing and services to support our officers as they work to keep us safe.

Our Budget discipline means we can invest more in essential services for the community, such as delivering on our \$33.5 million commitment over four years to rebuild Tasmania Police after the cuts of the previous Labor-Green government.

We are on well on track to achieving our goal of 1233 full-time equivalent police officers by June next year, with the latest number being 1185 and about 40 new recruits set to graduate this calendar year.

By the end of June, we will have created 86 of the promised 113 additional positions.

Extra police officers have allowed the establishment of the Serious and Organised Crime Division, which investigates eCrime and fraud, and also cold cases.

More officers have been allocated around the State across the full range of policing roles, including Road and Public Order Services and within Safe Families Tasmania, part of our nation-leading response to family violence.

A new initiative in this Budget is a \$3.4 million commitment over four years to roll out Body Worn Cameras to all frontline police officers.

This new technology has been shown to be effective in deterring assaults against officers and is an invaluable policing tool that can lead to an increase in guilty pleas, avoiding the necessity of victims having to give evidence in court and saving time.

The Liberal Government understands that our police officers and fire and emergency service workers go above and beyond – often putting their own safety at risk – helping others.

We know that their work can take a toll on their mental and physical health, and that's why we are also committing \$1.5 million a year over the next four years for a new Wellness Program.

The program, which will be additional to existing services, will take a proactive approach, adopting preventative measures and providing support to emergency services to help workers continue to their jobs.

The Government's investment in upgrading police housing will see a further \$1.25 million provided each year for the next three years.

Tasmania Police owns 59 police houses and 36 police stations with residences attached. Most of these are in country locations and are more than 35 years old, which means many are very much in need of refurbishment.

By providing housing in good condition we can encourage police officers and their families to live and stay in regional and remote parts of Tasmania.

Importantly, the police housing program uses local builders and suppliers, wherever possible, to undertake this necessary work – providing a boost to the local economy.

By rebuilding Tasmania Police, the Liberal Government is helping to Build Tasmania's Future as a safer community for all.

Contact: Chris Medhurst

Phone: 0410 600 400

25th May, 2017

Rene Hidding, Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management

## **Fire Safety Boost**

Tasmanian firefighters will receive a boost in their capability to fight fires in multi-storey buildings with the rollout of new aerial appliances – commonly known as snorkels.

The Hodgman Liberal Government is Building Tasmania's Future by investing in a safer Tasmania, with greater fire safety a priority.

In the 2017-18 Budget, we have committed \$3.75 million for the new appliances to replace three ageing vehicles in the South, the North and the North-West.

Aerial appliances are equipped with an aerial boom and platform, designed to raise firefighters to heights to enable them to rescue people or to tackle blazes in tall buildings.

Originally manufactured in the 1970s, the current snorkels have served Tasmania well, but, in spite of upgrades over the years, it is time they were replaced with new technology appliances that will enhance firefighting capabilities.

Addressing the bushfire threat to our communities continues to be a strong focus of the Liberal Government, and this Budget also delivers more funding for our Fuel Reduction Program.

Our unprecedented pre-election commitment of \$28.5 million over four years for a Statewide, tenure blind program was to conclude in the coming year with the final \$9 million allocated for activities in 2017-18.

This Budget will extend the program with a further \$27 million over the Forward Estimates, taking our total commitment to more than \$55 million by the end of 2020-21.

Fuel reduction is critical to reducing the threat of bushfires by making them easier to control, thereby reducing the potential for serious damage and increasing safety for both firefighters and the wider community.

Our tenure blind program means we are targeting both public and private land.

Over the first two years of the program, 207 fuel reduction burns were completed across the State on 39,419 hectares, including 4466 hectares of private land.

So far this year, the program has completed more than 185 burns in strategic high bushfire risk areas, with autumn burning still ongoing.

This is a program that will not only save property, it will save lives.

Contact: Chris Medhurst

Phone: 0410 600 400

25th May, 2017

Rene Hidding, Minister for Infrastructure

## **Tackling Traffic Congestion in Hobart**

The Hodgman Liberal Government is Building Tasmania's Future by ensuring we have the transport infrastructure we need for a growing economy and a growing population.

This Budget includes \$1.8 million for our Hobart Traffic Congestion Project to fund initiatives aimed at making peak period traffic more reliable and efficient.

There is no single solution to peak period traffic congestion. Improved traffic flow will be gained by a range of measures implemented over time.

Measures will include the installation of a system to provide real-time traffic information for commuters, upgrading the co-ordination of traffic lights on key corridors and upgrading traffic signal systems.

The congestion project will deliver:

- More efficient traffic flows on key arterials and through Hobart's CBD, with more clearways, better enforcement of clearways and improved management procedures;
- More reliable travel times with less variability in peak hour travel from day to day, allowing road users to better plan their journeys to meet their commitments;
- Better information for road users on traffic conditions, enabling informed choices about when to travel, alleviating the frustration of being caught in traffic; and
- More efficient public transport through bus priority measures within the CBD and on key arterial approaches.



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The Liberal Government is committed to working with local councils and the community to put in place the right policies to respond to Hobart's road infrastructure and transport challenges for the next 20 to 30 years.

Contact: Chris Medhurst

Phone: 0410 600 400



25<sup>th</sup> May, 2017

Jeremy Rockliff, Minister for Primary Industries and Water

## **Growing Agriculture and Boosting Biosecurity**

The Hodgman Liberal Government has a target to grow the value of agriculture tenfold to \$10 billion by 2050 and to achieve this we are working in partnership with our farmers and primary industry groups.

The 2017-18 State Budget is all about Building Tasmania's Future through strategic investment in our agricultural industries to support growth and jobs.

This includes:

**\$1.2 million for a Strategic Industry Partnerships Program** to co-invest with industry peak bodies and organisations in supporting growth and prosperity in our agri-food sectors. Initial priorities include promoting Tasmanian agriculture and food, dairy industry strategic development, wine quality and growth, rural business support, innovative farming practices and seafood industry collaboration.

**\$30,000 for a Bee Industry Futures Report** to guide industry development, pollination services and sustainable access to leatherwood within World Heritage areas.

**An additional \$2 million for agricultural landscape rehabilitation** through on-farm landcare works in partnership with Natural Resource Management groups to repair and rehabilitate rivers and streams.

**\$20 million for the Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture (TIA)** to continue its world-class work in agricultural research, development and extension that is vital for growing Tasmanian agriculture's productivity and developing future technologies and opportunities for our farmers.

**\$750,000 for a Dairy Industry Stock Underpass Pilot Program** to off-set the costs associated with establishing stock underpass infrastructure, improving farm and road safety and increasing farm efficiency.

Through the Brand Project we will invest **\$500,000 in Tasmania's brand to differentiate and market Tasmania** as the best place to live, work, visit, invest and raise a family. This work includes our agriculture and fisheries sectors as a key part of Tasmania's excellent reputation both interstate and overseas.

**\$600,000 for Safe Farming Tasmania**, this funding will enable the program to be delivered on an ongoing basis providing farmers with practical safety assistance on-farm. Since 2015 the Government's Safe Farming Tasmania Program has been changing the culture on the farm, to one where the safety of workers is always the number one priority.

### **Additional priorities for the year ahead include:**

- A new Crop and Pasture Seed Industry Plan developed in consultation with farmers and agribusiness to grow Tasmania's place in this potentially high-value and rewarding market.
- A new Charter for Working on Private Farm Land between State Government businesses and the Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association (TFGA) to enhance relations between farmers and state utilities and landowner's rights.
- Working with farmers on practical strategies to improve pasture and livestock productivity to underpin our grazing and meat processing sectors funded through our existing Cultivating Prosperity R&D Collaboration Fund.

### **These initiatives build on our existing commitments to:**

- The continued rollout of Tranche 2 irrigation schemes.
- Existing flood and catchment recovery support programs.
- Fruit industry market and development activities.
- The rural financial counselling service.

Being part of a 21<sup>st</sup> century global market we must also work to reduce the risks to our primary industries and environment outside our borders, at our borders and post border.

**The Budget contains more than \$5.6 million to boost Biosecurity.** This includes:

**\$1.54 million to support animal welfare, biosecurity and livestock productivity** through new livestock officers within DPIPWE for production animals and increased support for RSPCA inspectorate services to focus on the welfare of domestic animals.

**\$632,000 to increase the capacity of seasonal Biosecurity Frontline Services** to respond to demand during peak times of activity and support the primary industry sector to grow.

**\$1.44 million to support the implementation of the soon to be released Tasmanian Cat Management Plan** in partnership with Local Government.

**\$2 million to continue to improve the management of weeds, vertebrate pests and invasive species** and other risks to animal and plant industries.

These initiatives are on top of the doubling of biosecurity detector dogs to twelve teams, constructing the Powranna Truckwash, new signage at border entry points and laboratory upgrades.

Through our AgriFood Plan more than \$44 million is being invested in initiatives across agriculture, fisheries, biosecurity, and research and development so that we can grow more, make more and protect our vital primary industries sector.

Contact: Martin Gilmour

Phone: 0417 030 632



Building Tasmania's Future

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25 May, 2017

Jeremy Rockliff, Minister for Primary Industries and Water

## **\$14.3 Million Investment in Protecting and Growing our Fisheries Sector**

With the Hodgman Liberal Government's Budget back in balance we can continue to grow and protect the value of Tasmania's world class fisheries and seafood sector with a further \$14.3 million investment.

This investment will protect aquatic health and our reputation for quality products, assist the shellfish aquaculture industry as it adjusts to the ongoing impact of Pacific Oyster Mortality Syndrome, and support our marine recreational fishers.

The value of Tasmania's seafood production is estimated \$825.6 million, so protecting and growing this sector is vital to our economy and creating and protecting jobs.

This investment will benefit our commercial and recreational fisheries today as well ensuring we are well-placed to grow and protect these industries into the future.

The 2017-18 State Budget includes:

- **\$10.4 million for the Institute of Marine and Antarctic Studies** to continue its internationally leading fisheries, aquaculture and marine environment research and teaching.
- **\$600,000 to maintain the core capacity of the Centre of Excellence for Aquatic Animal Health.**
- **\$765,000 to extend the support to the oyster industry** over three years to implement the biosecurity and recovery measures in response to the Pacific Oyster Mortality Syndrome outbreak and its transition to managing and limiting the further spread of the disease to the North and North-West of the State.
- **One-year funding of \$146,000 will support TARFish** while a sustainable long-term funding arrangement is negotiated that enables the organisation to deliver improved services for recreational fishers.

- **\$800,000 to continue to support the Tasmanian Shellfish Quality Assurance Program.** This is in addition to the \$100,000 per year first provided in 2016-17 which is ongoing.
- **\$1.2 million to establish a biotoxin testing laboratory in Tasmania** servicing shellfish growers and the broader seafood industry to uphold seafood safety and product integrity. The Tasmanian laboratory will provide quicker testing for shellfish growers and the broader seafood industry and will minimise turnaround time, industry disruption and potential damage to Tasmania's quality brand.

Our existing commitments to the rock lobster translocation program and fisheries integrated licensing and management system (FILMS) also continues in 2017-18.

Through our AgriFood Plan more than \$44 million is being invested in initiatives across agriculture, fisheries, biosecurity, and research and development so that we can grow more, make more and protect our vital primary industries sector.

Contact: Martin Gilmour

0417 030632

25 May 2017

Jacquie Petrusma, Minister for Human Services

## **Supporting Tasmanians in Need with More Affordable Housing**

A key priority of the Hodgman Liberal Government is supporting Tasmanians in need, which is why the Tasmanian Government will continue to invest in our \$73.5 million Affordable Housing Action Plan in the 2017-18 Budget.

The Affordable Housing Action Plan will deliver affordable housing options for 1600 Tasmanian households over four years, on top of around 1000 families housed in social housing each year and the over 3500 families assisted by Private Rental Assistance through Housing Connect.

With the Budget back in balance, the State Government is Building Tasmania's Future by investing in essential services and job creation, committing \$31.2 million towards providing affordable housing for Tasmanians in 2017/18.

Major projects to be undertaken as part of the 2017-18 Budget include:

- 8 additional units for young people at the **Thyne House Youth Supported Accommodation Facility** in Launceston, to help youth to re-engage with education, training or a job.
- 9 units at the new **Youth at Risk Response Centre** at Moonah, as well as an additional \$800 000 a year to run the centre for homeless or at risk of homelessness youth by providing a safe and secure place for young people to live under the supervision of a live-in manager.
- 25 units at the new **Devonport Youth Supported Accommodation Facility**, which is adjacent to 23 serviced lots which will provide for affordable housing in a prime location, as well as a new group home for people living with disability.



- A new **Hobart Women's Shelter**, which will provide a 37 percent increase on existing crisis accommodation.
- Commencement of **landlord initiatives** designed to help vulnerable Tasmanians get into the private rental market; and
- Commencement of up to 65 units under the **Regional Supply Initiative**.

The Government also understands it can be hard for low to medium income Tasmanians to break into the housing market, which is why the Tasmanian Government is making **over \$6 million available through the HomeShare program** for a home deposit or loan for eligible low to medium income Tasmanians.

HomeShare is a shared equity scheme where people initially purchase up to 70 per cent of a property, with the Director of Housing owning the other 30 per cent. During 2017-18 more than 100 affordable housing lots will be available in Tasmania as part of the State Government's Affordable Housing Action Plan, and these lots will be available for people to purchase and build on through HomeShare.

**The 2017-18 Budget will also see \$26.5 million invested in new and upgraded public housing for Tasmanians.** As part of this investment, \$12 million will be spent on social housing in major urban centres to replace old and damaged stock with brand new, energy efficient homes especially suitable for older people and those living with disability.

Key maintenance expenditure includes:

- \$2.0 million to be spent on energy efficiency improvements in Housing Tasmania properties.
- Replacing a range of old heaters with heat pumps in properties, including Pure Heat wall heaters and gas heating, as well as removing Labor's compulsory gas heater policy; and
- An additional \$2.0 million to undertake window modifications to ensure that all Housing Tasmania properties comply with current regulations regarding ventilation and security. This will see windows replaced in around 200 Housing Tasmania properties which will further increase their energy efficiency.





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The Tasmanian Government knows there is still a long way to go, and that is why we are Building Tasmania's Future - to ensure more Tasmanians feel the benefits of a stronger economy.

Contact: Lara Kirkpatrick

Phone: 0436 010 174



Building Tasmania's Future

TASMANIAN BUDGET  
**2017-18**

May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Jacquie Petrusma, Minister for Human Services

## **\$45 Million Boost to Protect Tasmanian Children**

Supporting the needs of our most vulnerable children and young people will always be a core priority for the Hodgman Liberal Government.

With the Budget now back in balance we are investing an extra \$45 million over the next four years for Child Safety Services.

This includes an additional \$27.5 million to better support families and children at risk, and to ensure the Out of Home Care (OOHC) system provides the best possible care.

This investment in Out of Home Care will ensure that when children and young people come into care their individual needs are met and supported with appropriate and tailored therapeutic supports.

A component of this additional funding will also be utilised to enable the implementation of all recommendations in the Commissioner for Children and Young People's *Children and Young People in Out of Home Care in Tasmania Report*.

Funding will also be provided to the Commissioner's office to assist with independent external oversight and monitoring of the OOHC system.

The additional investment in Out of Home Care in this years Budget, comes on top of the \$20.6 million announced last year to deliver a whole of Government coordinated redesign of Tasmania's Child Safety Services.

An additional \$6.3 million is also being invested in a significant replacement of the Children and Youth Services' ICT system, which will reduce and minimise unnecessary administrative burdens on staff giving them more time to focus on children in need.

This builds on initiatives outlined in *Strong Families, Safe Kids*, the whole of Government refocus of child safety services and on stronger recruitment processes that have increased and strengthened the workforce.

As well, through *Strong Families, Safe Kids*, a further 19 funded frontline positions will be employed in the next year.

Ensuring adequate care is provided to vulnerable children is important and that is why the Hodgman Government will continue to invest in their future.

Contact: Rosita Gallasch

Phone: 0417 296 603

25<sup>th</sup> May, 2017

Jacque Petrusma, Minister for Human Services

## Supporting Tasmanians in Need

With the Budget back in balance, the Hodgman Liberal Government is reinvesting in the essential services that Tasmanians need.

The 2017-18 Budget is all about Building a Better Future for all Tasmanians. It includes:

- **Funding the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).** We will contribute over \$750 million in cash and in kind contributions to the NDIS over the 2017-18 Budget and forward estimates. Of this total funding contribution, \$179.7 million is new additional funding specifically allocated for the State Contribution to the NDIS. Around 10,600 Tasmanians with disability are expected to benefit from the NDIS when fully implemented in July 2019.
- **Record funding for the fourth year in a row for community sector organisations** - \$270 million in total to support 225 community sector organisations, providing access to essential community services for Tasmanians, including \$24.2 million to meet their obligations under the Fair Work Australia Equal Remuneration Order (ERO).
- **An additional \$900,000 over two years to support the Lead Support Coordination Service trial**, increasing its focus on providing services for young people with complex needs. Mission Australia, Baptcare and the Australian Red Cross have been appointed to deliver the Lead Support Coordination Service.
- **An additional \$150,000 to COTA and Advocacy Tasmania** to help protect older Tasmanians from abuse, which is on top of our election commitment of \$450,000 over three years for the Protecting Older Tasmanians from Abuse: Tasmania's Elder Abuse Prevention Strategy 2015-18.

- For the second year in a row, **additional funding of \$15,000 each for our Neighbourhood and Community Houses** totalling \$445,000. Each house will also be provided with an additional \$10,000 support payment to assist their valuable work in increasing social inclusion and to facilitate links to other vital services in their local communities. This brings the total investment in our Neighbourhood houses across the state to over \$6 million.
- Providing a new modernised \$325,000 **Derwent Valley Community House** at Blair Street.

This funding is in addition to action the Government is taking to reduce cost of living pressures such as:

- **Capping electricity prices**, which will save the average household around \$300 on their power bill in the coming 12 months.
- **Taking control of TasWater**, delivering lower prices to customers, saving the average household up to \$550.
- **Making it more affordable to build your first home**, by extending the First Home Builders' Grant and reducing stamp duty on house and land packages.

The Tasmanian Government is committed to keeping the Budget in balance, because it means we can continue to invest more in essential services which benefit those most in need.

Contact: Lara Kirkpatrick

Phone: 0436 010 174

25th May, 2017

Matthew Groom, Minister for Environment and Parks

## Investing in our Iconic National Parks

The Hodgman Liberal Government recognises the importance of our iconic national parks and the value they add to the State's booming visitor economy.

Tasmania has become synonymous with naturally beautiful landscapes, priceless Aboriginal and European cultural values, endless coastlines, amazing wilderness experiences and we have a vision to share these experiences with the world.

In the 2017-18 State Budget we are Building Tasmania's Future by investing in our natural assets so they can be enjoyed by future generations of Tasmanians along with visitors from around the world.

The Budget includes:

- **\$8 million over two years for the new Tourism Infrastructure In Parks Program (TIIP)**, to continue the delivery of iconic tourism experiences in national parks and other reserves across the State.
- **An additional \$6.8 million over three years has been committed to the Cradle Mountain visitor centre**, as well as viewing infrastructure at Dove Lake. Cradle Mountain is arguably Tasmania's best known natural landmark and this funding is on top of the previously committed \$15 million, and will add to the already first-class visitor experience at this site.
- **Maria Island will receive \$1.8 million over two years** to support the restoration of the World Heritage listed "Darlington" site and provide substantial improvements to visitor services.
- **Funding of \$250,000 has also been provided for the completion of the South Coast Track upgrade.**
- **\$4 million ongoing investment in the Three Capes Track and construction of Stage Three of the track has now commenced.** This stage of the development will provide improved access to Cape Raoul and Shipstern Bluff.

Through these investments, we are Building Tasmania's Future, ensuring our resounding tourism numbers continue and regional economies continue to share the benefits.

In addition to providing funding for unique visitor experiences, the Government believes in the ongoing management and reduction of harmful bushfire events in the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (TWWHA).

**That is why we are investing as additional \$2 million over four years** to deliver key recommendations including a Bushfire Risk Assessment Model and Fire Plan for the TWWHA.

**A further \$500,000 per annum over four years is set aside within the Fuel Reduction Program** managed by the Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management to provide additional resources to the PWS to support broad-scale fire mitigation activities, primarily fuel reduction burning in reserved land in the far South West, West and North West of the State.

By getting the Budget back into balance the Hodgman Government is able to continue to increase our investment in those things that make Tasmania unique such as our national parks and wilderness areas.

Contact: Chris Medhurst

Phone: 0410 600 400



25th May, 2017

Matthew Groom, Minister for Environment and Parks

## **Protecting our Natural Resources and the Environment**

The 2017-18 Budget will see the Hodgman Liberal Government continue to invest in programs and works to protect Tasmania's world class natural and cultural heritage.

Our picturesque State has an international reputation surrounding our unique natural and cultural heritage.

These are assets that we must protect into the future and with the State Budget back on track, we can invest more into protecting our extraordinary natural and cultural environments.

**We have committed a total of \$3.2 million to support the preservation of the critically endangered Orange-bellied Parrot. Of this:**

- A total of \$2.5 million has been set aside to enable the construction of a new captive breeding facility.
- We have recently seen some promising results out of the captive breeding program and this funding will go a long way into the rehabilitation of the species.
- Funding of \$170,000 per annum has been provided over four years to enable an increase in the capacity of the program to breed birds in captivity.

**Funding has also been committed to protecting aboriginal sites in the TWWHA with:**

- \$200,000 per year over four years has been invested to help ensure that significant aboriginal cultural values of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (TWWHA) are appropriately recognised.
- A Cultural Management Group (CMG) has been established and will work with non-Government aboriginal organisations on the management of cultural values in the State's TWWHA.

The Tasmanian Government will continue to take action against climate change, with an additional \$3 million commitment to deliver a number of new initiatives to respond to a changing climate and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Actions will focus on: climate change research, improving energy efficiency, reducing transport emissions and supporting business, local government and communities to take action.

This represents the single biggest investment in action on climate change by any Government since the establishment of the Tasmanian Climate Change Office.

**We are also committing funding for land, coastal and river management. This includes:**

- \$185,000 over three years to NRM North to support the Tamar Estuary and Esk Rivers Program to improve the health of the estuary.
- \$100,000 to trial a soft erosion mitigation against ongoing, natural coastal erosion processes on Crown Land at Okines Beach, Lewisham.

And to strengthen the financial resources of the Environment Protection Authority (EPA), Tasmania's independent environmental regulator, the Government will be introducing an industry based environmental levy on marine farming companies.

The EPA plays an integral part in the regulation of Tasmania's natural environment and waterways, and this levy will ensure the EPA has the resources to monitor and protect our precious environment, while allowing the industry to operate in a safe and sustainable way.

Furthermore, \$100,000 has been committed to consider an appropriate model framework for establishing a Container Deposit Scheme (CDS) in Tasmania.

Contact: Chris Medhurst

Phone: 0410 600 400

25th May, 2017

Matthew Groom, Minister for State Growth

## Promoting Tasmania to the World

With the State's Budget back on track, our economy growing, tourism visitor numbers booming and strong investment opportunities, the Hodgman Liberal Government is continually looking at ways to Build Tasmania's Future.

Tasmania has come a long way in recent years and there is an unprecedented level of interest in our State, both nationally and internationally. However, we realise there is still a long way to go.

Now is the time to capitalise on the growing strength of Tasmania's brand through investment in the promotion of our unique advantages as a State.

The 2017-18 Budget provides:

- **\$1.1 million over four year to grow Tasmania's export trade and investment attractiveness** through targeted international engagement. This includes \$340,000 specifically to boost our engagement with India and leverage the appeal of Ricky Ponting's brand to support a wide range of tourism, trade and investment opportunities.
- **\$1.5 million over four years for the Population Growth Strategy** as Tasmania moves towards our target of 650,000 people by 2050. The strategy will build on our growing reputation for a great lifestyle, affordable living and our strong business environment.
- **\$500,000 to promote increased skilled migration to the State.**

Tasmania has a world-class education system with a number of attractive specialist education institutions that make an extremely compelling case for interstate and international students, and we will be investing:

- **\$3 million over four years for the new Global Education Strategy** to drive growth in international and interstate students to Tasmania.

This funding will help to increase Tasmania's share of the education market and support numerous spill-over benefits into the local retail, transport, tourism and hospitality sectors.

Together these commitments reflect our strong and continued efforts to build Tasmania's profile and ensure that all Tasmanians benefit from our growing economy and increased job and investment opportunities.

Contact: Chris Medhurst

Phone: 0410 600 400

25th May, 2017

Guy Barnett, Minister for Resources

## **Encouraging Innovation in Mining – A Key Contributor to our Economy**

Mining and mineral processing is a key pillar of Tasmania's economy, accounting for about 50 per cent – or \$1.95 billion – of the value of the State's exports.

In the 2017-18 Budget, the Hodgman Liberal Government is Building Tasmania's Future by committing \$1 million over four years to a new Mining Sector Innovation Program, which is aimed at helping to keep the industry at the cutting edge of technology and best practice.

An increasingly high-tech sector of the economy, mining directly employs more than 2000 people across regional Tasmania, many in skilled occupations.

This initiative will build on Mineral Resources Tasmania's collaborative work with the University of Tasmania's Centre of Excellence in Ore Deposits (CODES) and with the Tasmanian Mineral and Energy Council.

The program will support the industry through:

- Innovative uses for geoscientific data using new technologies;
- Investigation of innovative solutions for mine rehabilitation and remediation;
- Development of best practice Acid Mine Drainage Management Guidelines; and
- Improving our understanding of landslip reactivation and implications for future planning and emergency response.

This Budget also confirms the Government's recent commitment of \$9.5 million to Copper Mines of Tasmania to assist in bringing forward a potential re-start of the Mt Lyell mine.

Further, the Budget continues funding for the \$1.4 million Geoscience Initiative Program, which was introduced last year and is designed to improve our capability to attract exploration investment through providing new geoscience data and mapping.

The final stages of the relocation of Mineral Resources Tasmania to Burnie, where it can better serve the industry, are also fully funded.

The Tasmanian Liberal Government has been the strongest and most consistent supporters of the mining industry because we believe it has a major role to play in Building Tasmania's Future.

Contact: Anthony Haneveer

Phone: 0428 374 122

25th May, 2017

Guy Barnett, Minister for Resources

## **Backing Forestry to Create Jobs**

The Hodgman Liberal Government's number one priority is jobs and in the 2017-18 Budget we are backing our forest industry to grow and to create employment.

We are Building Tasmania's Future by investing in our forest products, with \$4 million over four years\* to implement the actions identified in the Strategic Growth Plan for the Tasmanian Forests, Fine Timber and Wood Fibre Industry.

The Plan sets an objective of doubling the "industry value add" to \$1.2 billion by 2036. This is about creating more jobs by adding value to our forest resource.

As the Plan states, the future industry needs to be "sufficiently flexible", it needs to "enjoy continuing access to a high-quality wood resource" and it must "include a vibrant special species timbers sector".

This advice also confirms the importance of the direction the Government has taken to ensure resource security, flexibility and special timbers access through the Forestry (Unlocking the Forests) Bill 2017.

Of the funding committed to support the Plan, \$1 million over four years will be invested in the strategic marketing of Tasmanian forestry products. This money will be matched dollar for dollar by industry.

The Forest Practices Authority will receive \$300,000 a year to undertake analysis of the socio-economic impacts in the Forest Practices System.

There will be \$450,000 invested over the next two years in community awareness projects related to forestry; highlighted as a priority in the Plan.

Seed funding of \$150,000 will also be provided to help industry establish an umbrella organisation that will coordinate cooperative growth and investment strategies, research and development and other initiatives.

The establishment of a National Institute for Forest Products Innovation, based in Launceston, will be supported with \$2 million, which will be matched by the Australian Government.

Separate to the Plan, the Government will also deliver in this Budget more funding to Forestry Tasmania (FT) for its non-commercial activities.

The Government Business Enterprise is responsible for many kilometres of roads around the State that are now primarily used for tourist or firefighting access.

Access to these roads is of significant importance for tourism and for regional communities, which is why the Government is providing an additional \$8 million a year in the Budget for Community Service Obligations.

Separating FT's commercial activities from other infrastructure and services provided more for community benefits was a key part of the restructure initiated by the Government.

The Liberal Government is committed to Building Tasmania's Future and this Budget delivers for forestry by supporting growth to create more jobs in the industry and by making our forest agency more sustainable.

\* Half of this is new funding, with the remainder a reallocation of unspent monies previously tied to the Tasmanian Forests Intergovernmental Agreement.

Contact: Anthony Haneveer

Phone: 0428 374 122



25th May, 2017

Matthew Groom, Acting Attorney General

Guy Barnett, Minister for Corrections

## **Better Resourcing our Courts and Prisons**

The Hodgman Liberal Government is committed to ensuring that all Tasmanians have access to an efficient and effective criminal and civil justice system.

We are better resourcing our courts and prisons and ensuring sentencing options better reflect community expectations.

The 2017-18 Budget includes:

### **Support for Courts and Legal Centres**

The Government has already taken action to address the backlog in Tasmania's Supreme Court by appointing five acting judges. We are now building on this by providing an **additional funding of \$1.9 million over two years to cover court costs associated with extra sittings and support staff**. This includes funding for Supreme Court operations as well as the Legal Aid Commission of Tasmania.

**Record state funding to the legal assistance sector** – more than \$2.5 million over two years will ensure that our Community Legal Centres and the Legal Aid Commission continue to deliver important legal advice and assistance to the most vulnerable members of our community.

### **Phasing out of Suspended Sentences**

The Government has long held the view that suspended sentences are ineffective and we are committed to gradually phasing them out so the community can have more confidence in the justice system. We will provide **\$2.4 million per annum to implement the first tranche of reforms**, which includes:

- The provision for Drug Treatment Orders (DTOs) to be available for matters before the Supreme Court;
- Providing for deferred sentencing for adult offenders;
- The provision for a sentencing option of imposing a fine without recording a conviction; and
- Making minor amendments to the existing drug treatment order provisions.

### **Increased Prison Capacity**

The Tasmanian Prison Service Budget is being increased by a further \$4 million per year to cater for more prisoners as a result of our efforts to keep the community safe. New funding of \$8.6 million over four years will also enable important infrastructure improvements to occur including:

**Increasing capacity in the Ron Barwick Minimum Security Prison** by an additional 40 cells, build additional pre-release accommodation units and the construction of a new Mother and Baby Unit within the Mary Hutchinson Women's Prison. This funding will also cover additional associated staffing costs.

### **Transitional accommodation and rehabilitation**

This year's Budget also includes funding of \$1.4 million over four years to employ parenting and family reintegration facilitators and to provide assistance for transitional accommodation for prisoners.

The Hodgman Liberal Government makes no apology for putting serious and dangerous offenders behind bars, however we are also doing more than ever before to ensure offenders are successfully rehabilitated and reintegrated into society as productive and law-abiding citizens.

Contact: Chris Medhurst

Phone: 0410 600 400



Building Tasmania's Future

TASMANIAN BUDGET  
**2017-18**

25th May, 2017

Roger Jaensch, Parliamentary Secretary for Small Business, Trade and Red Tape Reduction

## **\$4.1 Million Package to Support Small Business and Industry**

The Hodgman Liberal Government recognises that small business is the engine room of Tasmania's economy employing more than 100,000 Tasmanians right across our State.

With the Budget back in balance we can continue to support this vital part of our economy with more than \$4 million over four years to help small businesses prosper and create more jobs.

The 2017-18 State Budget includes:

**\$2 million over two years towards the Small Business Grants to Support Apprentices and Trainees program** to assist small business to employ more new staff that are ideally suited to their business. The program recognises the importance of the small business sector in the creation of new apprenticeships and traineeships and will provide incentive payments of up to \$4000 upon successful completion of major milestones in the first two years of an apprenticeship or traineeship.

This announcement builds on our commitment of \$600,000 in the 2016-17 Budget to provide practical assistance to help small business to employ more apprentices and trainees.

**\$900,000 over two years to attract and form a new Start-Up Accelerator Program** in Tasmania to help foster new and innovative business ideas. The program will both leverage and build on Tasmania's start-up ecosystem and attract and support cutting edge start-up businesses to develop and grow in Tasmania.

**An additional \$1.1 million over four years to support Enterprise Hubs.** Established with Government support in the former Mercury building in Hobart and in Macquarie House in Launceston Enterprise Hubs will provide events, training and hands-on mentoring to develop prestart-up and early stage business opportunities.

**Additional funding of \$50,000 to improve the ability and capacity of the Tasmanian Small Business Council** to engage with both the Government and its members on the take up of government programs to ensure that the benefits are maximised for Tasmania's small business community.

**\$900,000 over four years to help businesses to become Digital Ready.** The program aims to assist small businesses to participate in the digital economy by providing targeted knowledge, skills and advice. The program will be available to all small business operators and include a specific focus on the tourism and hospitality sectors to improve participation in the visitor and sharing economies.

**\$115,000 for Crime Stoppers Shoplifting Awareness campaign** to help tackle shoplifting and related crimes which have a dramatic impact on a business' bottom line. This 12-month evidence-based campaign will be developed and implemented in collaboration with the retail sector and the wider community.

The Hodgman Liberal Government is Building Tasmania's Future by working closely with business owners and industry to ensure our vital small business sector can continue to grow and create jobs.

Contact: Martin Gilmour

Ph: 0417 030632

25<sup>th</sup> May, 2017

Sarah Courtney, Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier

## **Supporting Tasmanian Communities and Volunteers**

The Hodgman Liberal Government is the strongest supporter of our volunteer groups, community support organisations and Tasmania's multicultural diversity.

With the Budget back in balance we are able to continue to support groups that give their all to support other Tasmanians in our community.

The 2017-18 Budget includes:

**\$400,000 to Foodbank** over the next four years to establish a base in the North-West region. This is in addition to the \$300,000 per year provided to Tasmanian food security organisations.

**\$60,000 in further support for our mobile food vans**, including Loui's Van in Hobart, Launceston's Missionbeat and Gran's Van in Devonport to continue their great community service in 2017-18.

**\$200,000 to Volunteering Tasmania** over the next four years which is building an army of volunteers in the event of a natural disaster or emergency called EV-CREW. This is in addition to \$260,000 per year to Volunteering Tasmania.

**\$1.46 million over three years to help refugee families** arriving in Tasmania by providing education support, employment pathways and a welcoming environment.

Other significant community funding support packages in the State Budget include:

**\$50,000 to support the Risdon Vale Bike Collective** to continue its youth mentoring programs through the Risdon Vale Bike Shed and Blue Hills Bike Trails.

**\$100,000 in additional funding to the RSL** to support ex-serving personnel establish a 'retreat' at Dago Point Reserve, Lake Sorell.

**\$346,000 to support Tasmanian seniors**, including COTA, Seniors Week and to kick-start Tasmania's new Active Ageing Plan.

**\$90,000 for the Tasmanian Men's Shed Association** to support Men's Sheds around Tasmania – in addition to the \$550,000 allocated since 2014-15.

**\$100,000 over two years to support additional Community Participation**, including \$10,000 per year for two years for the Moonah Taste of the World Festival, \$10,000 per year for two years for the Deloraine Craft Fair and \$5000 per year for two years for Colony 47's Community Christmas Lunch.

**\$50,000 to support Tasmania's hosting of the Federation of Ethnic Communities Councils of Australia Congress** – a national multicultural conference – in 2019.

The Hodgman Liberal Government acknowledges and appreciates the outstanding work done by our community sector organisations and thousands of volunteers and we will continue to support Tasmanians in need as we Build Tasmania's Future.

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