

365 Day Plan Second Quarter Update: July to September 2015

30 September 2015

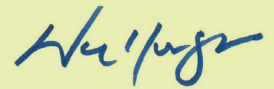
Second Quarter Update

The Tasmanian Liberal Government is continuing to deliver our long-term Plan for jobs and economic growth, and the results are beginning to show.

More Tasmanians have a job and the gap between the state and national unemployment rate is narrowing. Business confidence is the highest in the nation, building approvals are up and retail trade is at record highs. A record number of visitors are travelling to our state, revitalising our cities and regional communities.

It is a great time to be a Tasmanian and we are working hard as a Government to make Tasmania an even greater place to call home. In this quarter we have delivered in full on 24 of 26 initiatives, each in their own way changing our state for the better. The remaining two are nearly complete.

This is just the beginning. I firmly believe our best days are ahead of us.



Will Hodgman MP
Premier

Report on Quarter 2: 1 July 2015 to 30 September 2015

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

Key  Achieved  Almost complete

Implement 2015-16 Budget initiatives

The Government delivered its second Budget on May 28. The 2015-16 Budget received widespread endorsement and unanimous support from both Houses of Parliament.

It delivered a \$315 million jobs package, an extra \$100 million for frontline services and the biggest State spend (\$68 million) on high schools in 20 years. It puts the Budget back into the black next year, and builds on the momentum of job creation, economic growth and building confidence.

"This is the best tourism budget we've seen for probably a decade", Tourism Industry Council of Tasmania.

Introduce legislative changes to reduce red tape in the building industry

The Government is working to address Tasmania's overly complex and burdensome building industry regulation, significantly reducing unnecessary red tape, reducing costs, making Tasmania a more attractive place to do business, and supporting growth in Tasmania's \$2 billion building and construction sector that employs around 17,500 Tasmanians.

Following the completion of a comprehensive and consultative building framework review, a package of legislative changes is being developed through a number of Bills, with the Government's intention to bring the full package of measures into effect in 2016.

Draft legislation has been provided to industry and key stakeholders for input to provide for:

- simple and effective consumer dispute resolution mechanisms;
- improved consumer protection measures in relation to standard contracts; and
- updated occupational licensing arrangements for building service providers.

That draft legislative package is currently being finalised for introduction in 2015.

Legislation to deliver a new Building Act is also underway, which will, amongst other things, deliver a contemporary risk-based approach to building and plumbing approval processes and more flexibility than the current permit systems. An exposure draft of the new Building Bill will be available for public consultation in November 2015, before finalisation in early 2016.



Undertake major refurbishment projects on Spirits of Tasmania

The \$31.5 million refurbishment of the Spirits of Tasmania was the first since the vessels commenced in 2002. The refurbishment, together with additional sailings (a record total of 800 this year), aligns TT-Line's business model with the Government's objective to reach 1.5 million tourists by 2020.

The model is already paying dividends with forward bookings up 126% on the previous year, even before promotion. With every visitor arriving on the ships spending an average \$2700 in the State, an extra 10,000 passengers will bring \$27 million to our State. The world-class \$31.5 million refurbishment was delivered on time and on budget and provided work for 200 Tasmanians and 24 Tasmanian companies.

Decision on southern woodchip export option investigations

The Government is rebuilding the forest industry to drive economic growth and create jobs. Following an Expression of Interest to identify an industry-led solution for southern residues, a total of 19 proposals were received. Fourteen will now proceed to stage two of the EOI process, with the opportunity to provide a more detailed business case. Macquarie Wharf has been ruled out as a bulk woodchip storage/export facility.

Merge three THOs into single statewide Tasmanian Health Service (THS)

On 1 July 2015, the Government merged three regional health bureaucracies into one, unified Tasmanian Health Service to reduce duplication in corporate and administrative functions, while improving health services for all Tasmanians.

The Government's One Health System reforms will ensure the patient comes first, with access to better care, higher quality services, and all hospitals working together with each playing an important but different role.

The new Tasmanian Health Service (THS) will be responsible for implementing the important changes in the Health White Paper.



Implement changes and redesign services arising from the Health White Paper

The release of the Implementation Plan of the *One Health System* reforms sets out the next steps in delivering high quality, safe and efficient clinical services and better health outcomes for Tasmanians.

The Tasmanian Health Service Governing Council developed the Implementation Plan in consultation with clinicians and advisory groups. Tasmanian clinicians are central to the delivery of health care in Tasmania and will continue to have direct input into these reforms.

The first sessions of endoscopy procedures at the Mersey Community Hospital marked the beginning of an undertaking for more elective surgery as part of its statewide role as a dedicated elective surgery centre.

Three additional endoscopy sessions per month will see up to 300 more endoscopy procedures performed at this hospital each year.

Implement reforms to improve the effectiveness of the response to family violence

The Tasmanian Government has committed an additional \$25.57 million over four years to implement Tasmania's first new, coordinated, whole of government strategy to respond to family violence.

The *Safe Homes, Safe Families: Tasmania's Family Violence Action Plan 2015-2020* has been hailed as nation-leading, and is an unprecedented investment in prevention and early intervention, as well as holding perpetrators to account.

The first tranche of legislative amendments to strengthen laws against family violence – the Family Violence Amendment Bill 2015 – has been passed by both Houses of Parliament.

Progress draft of Integrated Freight Strategy

The Integrated Freight Strategy is aimed at addressing system bottlenecks and barriers to efficiency and productivity. The Strategy is particularly relevant given the Federal Coalition's additional \$203 million injection into the Tasmanian Freight Equalisation Scheme, which commences on 1 January 2016, and the China Free Trade Agreement, both of which will have a substantial and positive impact on freight and export growth around Tasmania.



Development of a Tasmanian Integrated Freight Strategy is well progressed and a draft will be released for stakeholder and public consultation in the next quarter of 2015.

In the meantime, the Federal and State Governments continue to invest in freight-supporting infrastructure including \$119.6 million into the Tasmanian Freight Rail Revitalisation Program, and \$500 million for the Midland Highway 10-Year Action Plan.

Launch Affordable Housing Strategy, to drive innovation and supply over the next decade

The Affordable Housing Strategy 2015-2025 will drive the State's future housing agenda over the next decade and has been widely supported. It is underpinned by a four year Action Plan to provide housing to 1600 vulnerable households and deliver over 900 new homes. It will give a boost to the building industry, creating up to 550 new jobs and increased economic activity of \$235 million.

It begins immediately with a \$13.5 million investment into new housing initiatives on top of the \$9.3 million in new projects included in the 2015-16 Budget.

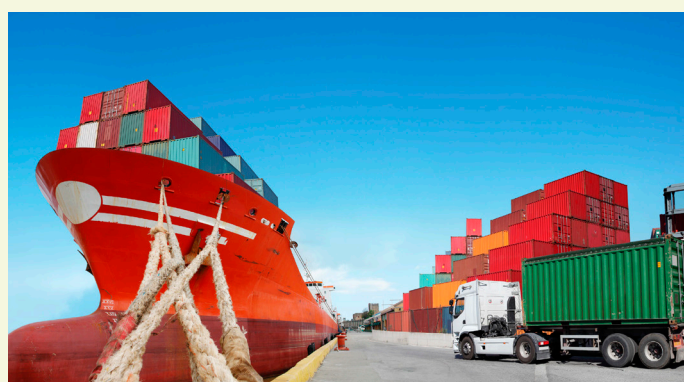
Sentencing Advisory Council investigation into alternatives to suspended sentences progress report delivered

The Government has a long-held position that suspended sentences are an ineffective sentencing option, and sought a report from the Sentencing Advisory Council (SAC).

The problematic nature of suspended sentences has been confirmed with delivery of the SAC report that found:

- 37.9% of offenders in the Supreme Court in Tasmania received a fully suspended sentence compared with the national average of 16.7%; and
- as at 30 September 2014, 34% of offenders in the Supreme Court breached their sentence by committing an imprisonable offence with only 55% of these offenders being subject to a breach action.

The SAC has proposed a range of alternative sentencing options, and public and stakeholder feedback is now being sought.



First tranche of legislation for the mandatory treatment of sex offenders

The Government remains committed to ensuring those convicted of sexual offences are required to undertake mandatory treatment while in custody. A lengthy consultation on the draft Corrections Amendment (Treatment of Sex Offenders) Bill – that will ensure imprisoned offenders undergo mandatory treatment for sex offending in prison - has been completed.

The new laws will be introduced shortly and will ensure participation in appropriate treatment must be taken into account by the Parole Board and remove eligibility for remission for offenders who refuse to participate.

Commence Project Endeavour to acquire replacement police vessel

Tenders have opened for a new Offshore Police Patrol Vessel. The Government committed \$5 million in the 2015-16 Budget to acquire a new vessel that will operate as far as 200 nautical miles offshore and play a pivotal role in marine safety and law enforcement.

This new vessel will fill a key void in the operational capacity of Police, and put an end to the costly and wasteful \$2 million saga of the Labor Government-commissioned PV Fortescue that was not fit-for-service. It is expected the procurement project will be completed in the first quarter of 2016.

Introduce Charter of Budget Responsibility Bill and Financial Management Bills

These Bills strengthen the rigour around the financial management and the expectations of government, when preparing the annual State Budget. The Charter of Budget Responsibility legislation makes it compulsory for fiscal sustainability reports to be prepared and released every five years. Those reports will provide clear information on the long-term sustainability of the State's finances and model various scenarios to make sure the Government of the day is properly planning for the future.

The Charter of Budget Responsibility Bill passed both House of Parliament in September 2015 and the Financial Management Bill is now with the Legislative Council for debate, following its approval by the House of Assembly on 24 September 2015.



Finalise Population Strategy

Tasmania has the oldest and slowest growing population in the country, and unless we take action now, Tasmania's population will go into decline in the next four decades, resulting in a slowing economy and fewer people in our workforce to support those unable to work.

The Government's Population Growth Strategy was released on 27 September 2015. It underpins our target to grow Tasmania's population to 650,000 by 2050, and invests over \$10 million in a targeted and comprehensive set of actions aimed at encouraging more people to our State through job creation, migration and ensuring Tasmania is recognised as the great place it is to live, work and raise a family.

Finalise MOU with Beacon Foundation to assist students to continue education, training or become job-ready

Young people who leave school before Year 12 are almost twice as likely to be unemployed than those who complete Year 12. The Beacon in Schools Program invests in actively helping engage young people to achieve better outcomes for their future by helping them continue their education, training or become job-ready.

An MOU has been finalised with the Beacon Foundation to expand on their existing work in Tasmania. Over three years an additional 1500 students will be able to undertake the program that focuses on employability skills, work experience, coaching, mentoring and career guidance.

Introduce legislation from Liquor Act Review

Following an extensive consultative review, the Liquor Licensing Amendment Bill was introduced into Parliament on 22 September 2015. It provides a contemporary legislative framework to update the 1980s Act and support Tasmania's hospitality industry – our fifth largest employer with nearly 20,000 employees.

It strikes the right balance between regulating the sale of alcohol, harm minimisation and developing the hospitality industry, in the best interests of the community. It also provides for improved flexibility and effectiveness in compliance and enforcement, provides greater clarity to industry, more transparency across the licensing and permit process and delivers administrative efficiencies.



Commence School Health Nurse program

In July 2015, the first 10 School Health Nurses were recruited to begin work in Tasmanian Government primary and high schools in Term 3.

This is part of an election commitment to reintroduce the school health nurse role.

Nurses will be working in all regions of the State to provide support to students, teachers and school communities, work collaboratively with other support and professional staff, and deliver an early intervention response for improved health and wellbeing in our schools.

Release government response to the independent review of the education of students with disabilities

The Ministerial Taskforce's Report into Education for Students with Disabilities was released in August 2015.

In response, the Government is immediately investing an additional \$1 million into education for students with disabilities.

The additional funding will provide incentives and scholarships to increase the number of teacher and teacher assistants with recognised formal education qualifications; will fund a pilot project to trial practice models for support staff and classroom teachers to improve student learning; and provide access to Family Partnership Training or similar, to help schools partner more effectively with families.

The Government will continue to work with the community as the remaining recommendations are considered.

Commence Stage 2 of Out of Home Care system reform

The Government provides funding of around \$42 million each year to support more than 1000 children and young people living in out-of-home care in the State.

Stage 2 of the Out of Home Care system reform has commenced. Three organisations have been engaged to deliver therapeutic services, sibling group care and residential care.



Placement and therapeutic services will be purposefully matched to the specific needs of each child, to increase stability of placement and improve outcomes for children in care.

The CREATE Foundation has gathered feedback from its Youth Advisory Groups around the State to provide children and young people with the opportunity to feed into the reform.

Introduce Statewide Planning Scheme

The Government is delivering on its commitment to make the planning system faster, fairer, simpler and cheaper, with the landmark legislation introduced into Parliament on 24 September, 2015.

The current planning system was a patchwork of arrangements, with 29 different schemes, sharing just 15 per cent commonality. It acted as a handbrake on our economy.

The new legislation provides the framework for comprehensively overhauling the system. The Tasmanian Planning Scheme will provide for around 80 per cent consistency statewide, while providing flexibility to cater for important local variations. It will provide greater clarity and certainty, making it easier to invest in Tasmania and encouraging more jobs and economic growth.

The Planning Reform Taskforce is continuing to consult widely on the development of draft schedules that once finalised will progress through a full statutory review under the legislation that has been introduced into the Parliament.

The Government is on track to have the new Tasmanian Planning Scheme up and running in full in 2017, one year ahead of schedule.

Ensure a job-ready workforce for the full roll-out of the NDIS

The Government has committed \$250,000 to National Disability Services (NDS) Tasmania over two years. This will allow NDS to continue to implement its Workforce Development and Skills Plan and will ensure a job-ready workforce for the full roll-out of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

NDS has also become a Strategic Industry Partner of Skills Tasmania which will help with workforce planning, training and development projects.



Resource the development of 15-20 food cooperatives throughout Tasmania

As part of a commitment to improved access to fresh and affordable food, eight new food cooperatives have been established throughout Tasmania with \$100,000 provided by the Tasmanian Government, meeting an election commitment.

The number and regions covered by the food co-operatives was determined by Neighbourhood Houses Tasmania. based on research by the Heart Foundation. The cooperatives will operate through Neighbourhood Houses and work closely with Eat Well Tasmania and the Heart Foundation to promote healthy eating and improved nutrition in local communities.

The Government has provided more than \$1.1 million in new funding for food security, including emergency food relief providers, mobile food services and food cooperatives.

Introduce Right to Appeal legislation on the basis of fresh and compelling evidence

The Right to Appeal legislation was introduced into Parliament on 17 September 2015. Currently, if new evidence emerges after a convicted person's appeal rights before the courts have been exhausted, the only option that person has is to petition the Attorney-General and the Governor to exercise the royal prerogative of mercy.

The amendment to the Criminal Code Act 1924 will provide for a new Right to Appeal to the Court of Criminal Appeal in circumstances where there is fresh and compelling evidence.

Receive final report from Office of the Anti-Discrimination Commissioner on expunging historic convictions for homosexual acts

The Government has received the Anti-Discrimination Commissioner's final report into expunging historic criminal records for consensual homosexual sexual activity.

Update on Outstanding Initiatives from the First Quarter

Introduce Criminal Conviction Conviction levy legislation

The legislation makes offenders liable to pay a cost of conviction charge of \$50 when sentenced by the Magistrates Court and a \$150 cost of conviction charge when sentenced by the Supreme Court. This ensures those who break the law contribute towards the cost of the criminal justice system.

The draft Bill has now undergone extensive public consultation and was introduced into Parliament on 22 September 2015.

The Government is working through the Anti-Discrimination Commissioner's report and its 34 recommendations in order to progress the expunging of convictions. This is a complex piece of work and it is critical it be progressed carefully.

Second police recruit intake for 2015

The Government was elected with a mandate to restore Tasmania Police numbers after the previous Government cut more than 100 police from the frontline.

This was a \$33.5 million commitment over four years that will see an increase of 108 police officers. As part of the Government's family violence initiative, a further five officers will also be recruited which will mean an additional 113 officers by 2018.

Course 1 of 2015 will graduate on 13 November 2015 with a further 20 recruits being posted to training stations around Tasmania. Course 2 of 2015 commenced on 24 August 2015 with 20 recruits who will graduate in late March 2016. There will be three further recruit courses in both 2016 and 2017 as the numbers are restored.

Receive legislative and governance review of the arts sector report

The Government has received the Legislative and Governance Review of the Arts Sector and is carefully considering the issues and possible options for reform. It is the intention to consult more broadly on the issues and options raised in the Review and we expect that consultation will occur with the sector this year.

The Government is a strong supporter of the arts and cultural sector in Tasmania. It is important that the views of the sector are carefully considered to ensure the outcomes of the Review process help secure and grow the industry into the future.

Introduce Director of Public Prosecution and Solicitor-General Act Amendment Legislation

Legislation was introduced on 15 September 2015 to amend the Director of Prosecutions Act 1973 and the Solicitor-General Act 1983 to reflect contemporary practice and community expectations. The Law Officers (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill has passed both Houses. Both are significant statutory positions that play an integral role in the administration of justice in Tasmania.

The legislation provides for a fixed 10 year term, with eligibility for a further appointment up to ten years, new grounds for removal from office and amendments to suspension from position provisions. It ensures we will not see a repeat of the situation where the former Director of Public Prosecutions was suspended on full pay for a lengthy period of time while court proceedings took place. Recruitment has already commenced for the Director of Public Prosecution position.

Quarter 3: 1 Oct. to 31 Dec. 2015

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

Quarter 4: 1 Jan. to 14 Mar. 2016

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

