

**Will Hodgman MP**  
Leader of the State Opposition  
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### ***A record of failure***

The State Opposition has today highlighted ten years of abject failure by the Labor State Government.

It is little wonder that the Premier, David Bartlett, is trying to draw a line in the sand under this record.

This Friday, August 29, marks ten years since the election of the State Labor Government.

The anniversary is nothing to celebrate – a feature of Labor's time in office has been a failure to deliver results despite a massively increased budget spend.

In many cases, outcomes for Tasmanians in key areas such as health and education have in fact got worse.

Labor's record of failure over ten long years was the subject of debate in Private Members' Time today, after the Opposition moved a Motion in the Parliament yesterday drawing attention to it.

This government must be held accountable for its record.

For one of the first times, Mr Bartlett actually touched on Labor's record, and said he was proud of the role he's played in it over the past ten years.

Leader of the State Opposition, Will Hodgman, said Tasmania could not afford another ten years of Labor at the helm no matter what cliches and catch phrases Mr Bartlett might come up with to try to spruik them.

“Mr Bartlett is using exactly the same sort of rhetoric now as Labor was using ten years ago to try to win voters over. Three Premiers later, and Labor has proven that it cannot deliver. Labor has had ten years of chances and they don't deserve any more.”

Examples of Labor's hall of shame over the last ten years include:

- In 1998, Labor promised to reduce hospital waiting lists. Today they are almost 40% longer;
- In 1998, Labor promised to stand up for rural health services, ten years later, facilities such as Ouse are being closed down while others are being downgraded
- In 1998, Labor promised a \$1 million Health Promotion Foundation, but ten years on Tasmanians have poorer health status than other jurisdictions;
- In 1998, Labor promised Tasmania would become a world leader in reducing the incidence of child abuse, ten years on Tasmania has more children on care and protection orders than any other state or territory, and has experienced a 3000-fold increase in the number of child abuse notifications;
- In 1998 Labor committed to ensuring all people had access to secure, affordable housing, ten years on and there are more than 2646 people on public housing waiting lists, and the number of public housing properties have fallen from 14,775 in 1998 to 11,676 in 2006;
- In 1998, Labor committed to making education in government schools one of the highest priorities. Ten years on, Tasmania has poorest educational attainment rankings of any State or Territory, and in many key performance indicators, students have gone backwards in the last two years that David Bartlett has been Minister for Education;
- In 1998, Labor promised to help drought-proof Tasmania's farming sector, but ten years on it is still just talking about it
- In 1998, Labor promised to develop Princes Wharf with a firm proposal by Christmas 1999. Ten years on and Princes Wharf remains an empty shed;
- Tasmania's infrastructure is sub-standard and lacks a coherent strategy for the future;
- Labor promised to roll out natural gas past 100,000 households and premises – but the pipeline has passed fewer than half this number despite a massive investment of taxpayers funds;
- During its second term in office, Labor bought the fibre optic cable and promised this would give Tasmanian homes and businesses more choice for high speed internet access. The fibre optic cable is still dormant.
- Labor also promised Spirit III would create 1126 jobs and attract 50,000+ extra visitors to Tasmania. At the 2006 State election, Labor said its commitment to Spirit III was rock solid. After bleeding taxpayers with its losses, Spirit III was axed soon after Labor was re-elected
- In 2004, Labor promised the Sullivans Cove Waterfront Authority would oversee waterfront development. Four years later, no master plan for the waterfront even exists;
- Labor promised no new or increased taxes but household bills for basics like electricity and bus fares have spiraled and Tasmania's own-source taxation revenue has increased by over 30% in the past 10 years (despite Tasmania

stopping collecting a number of taxes when the GST was introduced), and the government is now proposing a new ambulance tax;

- In 2006, Labor said building a new Royal Hobart Hospital would be a “massive waste of money” and that it was already building a new hospital at the existing site from the inside out. Months later, Labor committed taxpayers to a new hospital, that it still hasn’t even prepared a business case for.

Mr Hodgman said that an erosion in standards of governance had been a hallmark of Labor’s ten years in office.

Some of the worst examples include:

- Former Deputy Premier, Bryan Green, was tried twice in the Supreme Court on serious criminal charges stemming from an illegal deal he made as Infrastructure Minister on the eve of the 2006 election. He was neither acquitted nor convicted. Premier, David Bartlett, was part of the government that expressed full confidence in Mr Green when the secret deal was made public;
- The former Premier, Paul Lennon, was branded an unfavourable witness by the Director of Public Prosecutions in one of Mr Green’s two trials but no one in his Cabinet, including Mr Bartlett, expressed any public concern;
- The Deputy Premier appointed after the Bryan Green scandal, Steve Kons, was forced to resign in disgrace after lying to Parliament about the appointment of a magistrate, raising grave concerns about political interference in the judicial appointment process
- Allegations that the former Premier, Paul Lennon, leaned on retired Supreme Court judge Christopher Wright to speed up the pulp mill assessment process were never investigated for potential wrongdoing, including possible breaches of the RPDC Act, because the then Attorney General refused to have them investigated;
- Allegations of interference in the independent pulp mill assessment process by the government led to the resignation from the RPDC of its commissioner, Julian Green, which triggered the events that led to Gunns’ withdrawal from the RPDC. Mr Green received an ex gratia payout;
- Tasmania was humiliated by revelations the former Premier, Paul Lennon, accepted lavish hospitality from Crown Casino on the eve of giving its owners, PBL, a controversial new gambling licence for Betfair;
- The disgraced former Governor Richard Butler was given a \$650,000 taxpayer cheque that he was not entitled to in circumstances that also raised questions of possible criminal wrong-doing by the government;
- Former Tourism Minister, Ken Bacon, was allegedly instructed not to answer questions on Spirit III at Parliamentary GBE hearings;
- Brenton Best resigned as Parliamentary Secretary in 2000 after admitting to misusing his government car and misleading parliament

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