

**Will Hodgman MP**  
Leader of the State Opposition  
Monday July 21, 2008

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## ***Access Report shows more work to be done***

The latest Access Economics Business Outlook should serve as a wake-up call for the State Government across a number of areas, highlighting the need for it to be proactive to secure the State's long term economic prosperity.

Leader of the State Opposition, Will Hodgman, said the State Labor Government has revelled in good economic times, but after a succession of warnings it now needs to snap out of its hangover and get on with the job of making Tasmania's economy sustainable for the longer term.

"What exactly is Labor committed to doing to take our economy forward? Other than begrudgingly agreeing with the Liberal policy to at least have a look at our tax system, not much else has been done or proposed," Mr Hodgman said.

"And great opportunities, such as the development of the Hobart waterfront, have been poorly handled by a Government that too often is incapable of progressing major development."

Mr Hodgman said the report is a mixed bag for Tasmania, and the positive aspects that it highlights, such as relatively solid jobs growth, are warmly welcomed.

"However, issues of concern include flattening export earnings, easing population growth and relatively weaker business investment growth which will go against Tasmania's prospects over the long term," Mr Hodgman said.

It would also appear that the numerous Lennon-Bartlett Government scandals are having an effect on lowering business confidence in the State, with the report noting that although small business confidence is still above the national average, it "has taken a knock".

"A report such as this should send the message to the State Government that there is a lot of hard work to be done to secure the long-term prosperity of Tasmania, and that it needs more than just the massive shot in the arm that a pulp mill will provide," Mr Hodgman said.

Mr Hodgman said the State Opposition has a plan to drive economic growth in Tasmania, which includes:

- reviewing Tasmania's tax arrangements with a view to structural reform that will generate greater business activity, investment and employment;
- cutting red tape and bureaucratic inertia;

- aggressively pursuing high-end industries such as information and communications technology, agribusiness, research and development and improving our skills base strategies to make Tasmania a magnet for innovative, productive and creative people;
- making Tasmania a magnet to attract innovative productive and creative people to live, work and invest here;
- establishing an office of the Small Business Commissioner to provide practical support to small business; and
- creating a Future Fund to meet the infrastructure challenges of the future.

**For further information or comment please call Kristy Mays – 0407 503 910**

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