

**Will Hodgman MP**  
Leader of the State Opposition  
Tuesday June 17, 2008

### ***Awakening Tasmania to 2014***

The Leader of the State Opposition, Will Hodgman, today announced that all school, college and TAFE students would have free bus travel to and from school under a Hodgman Liberal Government.

Mr Hodgman also announced \$7.5 million recurrent funding to introduce rebates of up to \$1000 for the installation of solar or reversible cycle hot water systems and rainwater tanks, and up to \$500 on insulation installations.

With the State Government budgeting for a \$122 million surplus this financial year, and initiatives to encourage practical action to fight climate change a glaring omission from last week's State Budget, Mr Hodgman challenged the Premier, David Bartlett, to amend the Budget and introduce the scheme now.

He also spoke of his vision to make Tasmania a magnet to attract more innovative, creative and productive people to the State.

The initiatives were announced in Mr Hodgman's Budget reply speech to Parliament, which highlighted aspects of what Tasmania would be like in 2014, after four years of a Hodgman Liberal Government.

Some of the key milestones Mr Hodgman said would be achieved by 2014 as part of this vision include:

#### **Accountability**

- Establishing an appropriately structured and adequately resourced authority to investigate and deal with cases of corruption and maladministration in government and the public service;
- Reforms arising from a total review of Freedom of Information laws and whistleblowers legislation;

- The introduction of “right of reply” provisions in the Parliament, enabling people feeling aggrieved by statements made under Parliamentary privilege to exercise a right of reply;
- Strengthening the Standing Orders in the House of Assembly to provide 60 calendar days for answers to written questions tabled;

### **Infrastructure**

- Establishing a statutorily independent Future Fund to help meet the infrastructure challenges of the future and to provide for independent and transparent management of the Superannuation Provision Account;
- Tasking the Tasmanian Irrigation Development Board with the responsibility of investigating a Tasmanian Water Grid, to ensure inter-operability between water development projects and to maximize the productive capacity of the State, and to encompass the whole of Tasmania, including the parched South East, the Southern Midlands and Circular Head regions;
- Mr Hodgman also announced that today the State Opposition had written to Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd, to request that Auslink funding be used in a strategic and long-term way, and that areas of the Midland Highway that are currently not dual carriageway be upgraded to dual carriageway, where appropriate, progressively as part of a 20 year plan.

### **Education**

- Every Tasmanian child will, by 2014, be able to read and write in line with the relevant national standards or benchmarks for their age, and at the very least, to the national average;
- Extra payments to teachers will be linked to educational outcomes. The Liberals will use a professional performance pay model recognizing professional development, leadership, innovation, and importantly, evidence of performance improvement and achievement by students;

### **Climate change**

- Mr Hodgman announced the provision of \$7.5 million recurrent funding to enable up to 9000 Tasmanian households per year to access up to a \$1000 rebate on new installations of solar or reverse cycle hot water and rainwater systems, and up to \$500 on improved insulation. With the State Government forecasting a \$122 million fiscal surplus this financial year, Mr Hodgman said the government should adopt this initiative now;
- All Tasmanian primary, secondary and college students up the age of 18 will be able to catch a bus to and from school free of charge; and public transport for Seniors will be free of charge; and
- Feasibility assessments would be conducted into alternate transport systems, such as light passenger rail, ferry services and the use of alternate fuels in the State;

Mr Hodgman said Premier Bartlett had been gifted a \$4.1 billion budget when he shunted the former Premier from office recently.

But despite the solid shape of the Budget, the State Labor Government stood condemned for its lack of outcomes over the past ten years in key areas such as elective surgery waiting lists.

The State Government will not have to report on its 2008/09 budget outcomes until after the 2010 election if it does so by way of the State Budget Papers. Mr Hodgman challenged Mr Bartlett to report on targets and progress against them after the 2008/09 financial year, and before the 2010 election, so Tasmanians could see what outcomes were delivered from this year's record spend.

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