



*media release*

Tasmanian Liberals

## **Will Hodgman MP**

Leader of the Opposition

Tuesday July 15, 2008

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### ***Good times going to waste***

The Leader of the Opposition, Will Hodgman said today that while comments from Western Tiers MLC, Greg Hall, highlight the increase in public servants, it is important to remember that the community relies on public servants to deliver vital services.

“While it’s important to have a strong public service, the State Government is wasting the economic good times by spending up big on advisors.

“Everyone knows the current boom is a once in a lifetime opportunity, yet the State Government has run down infrastructure over the past 10 years and is frantically trying to make up for its mistakes.

“Instead of investing in the future, the Labor Government has wasted this golden opportunity on appointing more advisors than any other Government in Tasmania’s history.

“If public sector waste was an Olympic sport, the Lennon-Bartlett Government would win gold,” said the Leader of the Opposition, Will Hodgman.

“In 1997-98, \$9.09 million was spent on ministerial staff and advisors. In the 2008-09 Budget, it was revealed that the Labor Government will spend \$15.097 million.

“Imagine how many more teachers, nurses, police officers and other front-line public servants could be employed if we had a Government that wasn’t so self-obsessed.

“For example, in addition to the Government’s extravagant Media Unit, within the Department of Health and Human Services alone, the Government also employs:

- three Senior Communications and Marketing Consultants;
- two Communications and Marketing Consultants;
- a Communication and Marketing Officer;
- a Communication and Marketing Consultant (Graphic Design);
- an Issues Management and Media Relations Advisor;
- a Media and PR Advisor;
- two Managers of Communications and Marketing Services; and
- a Manager.

“Presumably the Manager is there to manage all the other managers,” Mr Hodgman said.

“This is just the tip of the iceberg too. Even though there is a Government Media Unit and a 12-person spin unit in the Department of Health, the Health Minister employs a further five personal advisors just in case all the other advisors, consultants and managers can’t help her.

“The Government has consistently failed to deliver the key outcomes that the community expects. Instead of solving problems, the Government employs people to help it deny the problems even exist.

“Perhaps the Government should get its priorities right and employ less spin doctors and more real doctors,” Mr Hodgman said.

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