

Will Hodgman MP
Leader of the State Opposition
Sunday July 13, 2008

Leading the way

The State Government is increasingly lifting policies of the State Opposition and claiming them as their own.

The State Opposition puts forward policy proposals on the basis that they are in the best interests of the State.

Leader of the State Opposition, Will Hodgman, said there were many more good ideas that had been put forward by the Opposition that it would urge the government to implement.

“After ten years in office, the Labor Government is out of ideas, and the new Premier is lifting policies left right and centre to try to make his mark.

“I commend the government for recognizing the merit of our policies, and make the point that there are many more that we have put forward that should also be implemented in the best interests of the State.”

Some of the policies adopted by Labor in recent times include:

- fixed four year Parliamentary terms;
- a comprehensive review of Tasmania's taxation system;
- the establishment of an appropriately structured and adequately resourced authority to investigate and deal with cases of corruption and maladministration in government and indeed the public service (*could be argued that Bartlett's Ethic Commission is a variant on our initiative*);

- Good Samaritan legislation;
- investment in major water development projects;
- a streamlined dam-approval process;
- smaller class sizes
- disability action plan;
- a comprehensive review of drug and alcohol services;
- studies into the diversion of water from Poatina Tail race and the Forth River dams into surrounding catchments;
- a blitz on elective surgery waiting lists;
- upgrading the Launceston General Hospital's Emergency Department; and
- significantly increasing funding for sexual assault services.

Some of the policies previously announced by Mr Hodgman that he has commended to the Government include:

- making Tasmania a magnet for young people;
- attracting the awakening consumer;
- development of a water gird strategy for the State
- a Smarter Tasmania;
- a Fairer Tasmania;
- implementation of a professional performance pay model for Tasmanian teachers;
- recognising the value of small business;
- free bus travel to and from school for all Tasmanian primary, secondary and college school students – up to the age of 18;
- a plan for a sustainable Tasmania;

- the implementation of a robust incentive scheme for households to get energy and water smart operating; and
- the implementation of a coordinated strategy for volunteers as part of the Fairer Tasmania plan to support and promote the invaluable role that they play within the community.

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