

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

Making Tasmania a magnet

The Leader of the State Opposition, Will Hodgman, today also outlined a key element of his vision to make Tasmania a magnet to attract more innovative, creative and productive people to the state.

This year's Budget confirms that our population growth is minimal, and data confirms that Tasmania continues to suffer an exodus of young people, innovative and productive people from this State, and they are not being replaced.

This presents as a major social, cultural and economic threat to the state, and it is a clear policy of the State Opposition to make Tasmania a magnet to attract young people to this State to live, work and raise families.

In his Budget Reply speech to Parliament today, Mr Hodgman spoke of the 'awakening consumer' – a person, a family or even a business that places a higher value on the social and environmental attributes of the products they buy, or the places they travel to or do business in.

"We can attract not only tourists, but also people who may choose to make Tasmania their permanent home," Mr Hodgman said.

"Tasmania has a tremendous opportunity to be that product, and to capture the awakening consumer."

"With our inimitable lifestyle, our unique natural environment, unrivalled tourism opportunities, unique natural fauna and flora, our exquisite food and wine and natural product it is a wonder we are not being inundated!"

"But to be that magnet, to capture the awakening consumer, we must also offer those qualities and attributes important to people."

We must be a place that is developing sustainably, a community that protects what is special but which also grows, and provides opportunity.

“Somewhere people feel good about the place they live in, and about the government that leads them...

“A place that provides opportunity for all those who live here, to work, prosper and achieve their full potential...

“A place where those who live here have access to a good health system, and where their children receive no less than the highest educational outcomes.

“That is my vision for Tasmania

“But we are not yet there.

“Tasmania in 2014, after the first term of a Liberal Government, we will achieve that vision.

“And we will deliver those outcomes.”

Further information: Georgia Warner – 0418 564 073

Ref...gw