

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

More nonsense from Aird

The Leader of the State Opposition, Will Hodgman, has dismissed Treasurer Michael Aird's puerile contribution to the Budget Reply, as unsurprising, preconceived, and embarrassing devoid of facts.

Mr Hodgman said Mr Aird's factually bankrupt statement issued today can not go unchallenged.

If Mr Aird even had any idea of what has transpired in the Budget debate he would be aware that The Leader's Budget reply detailed a clear policy direction and highlighted glaring government failure; the Future Fund proposal, which has been endorsed by independent economic commentators, has again been explained in detail, and other policies announced today were fully costed and funded.

Furthermore, the State Opposition is committed to the Charter of Budget responsibility which contains legislative requirements for parties to provide a fiscal strategy and submit all policies to Treasury for costing prior to the election. The State Liberals have publicly committed to adhering to requirements of this Charter.

Before Mr Aird challenges anyone else to a battle of wits he should make sure the twaddle he peddles bears some resemblance to reality and that he himself is safe from criticism.

Who can forget Mr Aird's last 07/08 Budget, which contained two errors so serious it required the issuing of erratum to correct the embarrassing effort.

And for the record, this was Mr Hodgman's third Budget as Liberal Treasury spokesman, not his second – just another case of Mr Aird not bothering to acquaint himself with the facts.

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