

Will Hodgman MP
Leader of the State Opposition
Wednesday July 16, 2008

The campaign for 2010

The Leader of the State Opposition, Will Hodgman, has reaffirmed his commitment to give Liberal candidates every opportunity to engage with the Tasmanian community prior to the next State election.

However candidates will **not** be appointed Shadow Ministers for portfolio areas, rather they may be given responsibility for particular issues in their electorate.

In a media interview yesterday, Mr Hodgman talked about his plan to provide candidates with more support and exposure, as part of the Liberal plan to win majority government in 2010.

Identifying outstanding candidates, and getting them known in their electorates, is an essential part of the plan. Mr Hodgman has committed to providing candidates with unprecedented input to the State Opposition's policy development process and the opportunity to represent Liberals publicly at a range of forums and in the media.

In his media interview yesterday, however, Mr Hodgman explained that he was not, for example, proposing to make a particular candidate the Shadow Minister for Health. Unfortunately, the complete opposite of this is what has been reported today.

"I remain committed to ensuring those prospective candidates for the 2010 election are given the best opportunity possible to engage and connect with the Tasmanian public," Mr Hodgman said.

"If we are to have success in 2010, it is imperative that candidates are allowed sufficient time and support.

"I will extend to all candidates the opportunity to become an active participant in the key strategic and policy deliberations of the PLP through regular meetings, and opportunities

at public forums and through the media. Through this, they will effectively become additional members of the PLP.

“Candidates will be given responsibility for local issues and interests, but they will not be Shadow Ministers for portfolio areas. That will remain the domain of elected members, as it should.”

Further information: Georgia Warner – 0418 564 073

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