

**Will Hodgman MP**  
Shadow Treasurer  
Tuesday June 24, 2008

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### ***Treasurer's warchest overflowing***

Treasurer, Michael Aird, confirmed today in Budget Estimates that his Government is sitting on a massive war chest of unallocated taxpayer money.

Leader of the State Opposition, Will Hodgman, questioned exactly how much that the Government was pouring into the war chests of the Infrastructure Tasmania Fund, the Water Infrastructure Fund and Urban Renewal and Heritage Fund had not yet been allocated to specific projects.

It was confirmed that at least \$93 million in the Tasmanian Infrastructure Fund has not been allocated.

“Meanwhile, the Urban Renewal and Heritage Fund, for example, was announced as a \$25 million fund. Yet only \$2 million is earmarked for spending next financial year, and of the \$80 million Water Infrastructure Fund, just \$5 million is slated for spending next year.”

Mr Hodgman said the State Government was clearly hoarding money away in order to try to spend its way back into government at the 2010 election.

“The reality is that the Treasurer was not able to say how he planned to spend the money available to him over the next 4 years,” Mr Hodgman said.

“The Treasurer’s assertion that Tasmanians would not think these funds were to be used for election promises is laughable. It’s an election war chest – pure and simple. The Treasurer is treating Tasmanians like fools for pretending otherwise.”

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