

Will Hodgman MP
Leader of the State Opposition
Friday June 13, 2008

What commitment to climate change?

The State Opposition has expressed surprise at the lack of government investment on climate change initiatives in this year's State Budget, particularly in light of the expectations that the Labor Government has raised on this issue all year.

Yesterday's State Budget shows an additional \$5.7 million is to be spent over the next four years by the government, bringing to \$7.7 million the spend in the Climate Change output over the next four years.

Over the same period, the State Government estimates that it will receive \$17.27 billion.

"Given that former Premier, Paul Lennon, made quite a lot of noise about how his government was supposedly going to start playing catch-up on this pressing social and environmental issue, the Budget did not meet expectations," Leader of the State Opposition, Will Hodgman, said.

"What is particularly disappointing is the lack of practical measures to help Tasmanians reduce their carbon footprint – such as rebates for solar energy and installing water tanks, particularly at a time of drought when every bit of energy we get from the sun saves water from our dams."

"The lack of support for practical initiatives to reduce our carbon footprint was a surprising omission from yesterday's Budget and seems to indicate that Labor is still stuck in the past on this important issue."

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