

Will Hodgman MP
Leader of the State Opposition
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Will key strategies ever see the light of day?

The State Government has come under fire for its failure to deliver on promised strategies in the areas of coastal policy, noise policy and climate change.

It is more than four years since Labor promised a new Coastal Policy for Tasmania, but when quizzed about the policy in Budget Estimates hearings today, the Environment Minister, Michelle O'Byrne, was at a complete loss as to what is happening with it, and when it may, finally, be released.

It was January 2003 when the State Government released a draft noise policy – and today, Ms O'Byrne, revealed she expects to receive a new draft soon and have the issue finalised by the end of the year, almost six years on.

And it is anyone's guess when the government's Climate Change Strategy, a draft of which was released in 2006, will ever see the light of day.

Leader of the State Opposition, Will Hodgman, said the delays had become a joke.

"Climate change, coastal policy and noise policy issues that the government has actually identified as priorities, and yet years down the track, it has been utterly incapable of delivering any outcomes," Mr Hodgman said.

"And there doesn't seem to be any sense of urgency from the government in progressing these issues either.

"This is becoming a recurring theme under Labor – it is all talk and no action, and despite every year, having record amounts of money to spend in the Budget, it does not deliver outcomes."

In terms of the Coastal Policy, Mr Hodgman said it was not good enough for the Minister to dismiss this as a justice and planning department matter. A brief from last year's

Budget Estimates hearings for the Environment Division confirms that it is intricately involved in coastal policy issues.

“And surely the Minister for the Environment should be arguing strongly in Cabinet for a greater degree of urgency with delivering important policy,” Mr Hodgman said.

“This is another striking example of how this government spends more money each year, but fails to deliver outcomes.”

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