



# **2014-15 BUDGET SPEECH**

***'Keeping our promises. Laying the foundations for the future.'***

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BY  
THE TREASURER  
HON PETER GUTWEIN MP

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*Presented to both Houses of Parliament by the Governor's  
Command*



# Madam Speaker,

Today, I have the great pleasure of handing down the Liberal Government's Budget for 2014-15.

The first Liberal Budget in 16 years.

A Budget that delivers all of our election promises, in full and on time.

A Budget that begins the task of fixing the financial mess left by Labor and the Greens.

And importantly, Madam Speaker, a Budget that lays the foundations for a brighter future for all Tasmanians.

Madam Speaker, this Budget cuts the four year cumulative deficit of \$1.1 billion left by Labor and the Greens by around \$450 million.

Across the Forward Estimates, this Budget improves the operating balance compared to the Budget Risks Report in each and every year and puts us on track for a surplus two years later.

This year's forecast deficit of \$285 million is an improvement of \$40 million from the \$325 million estimated in the Budget Risks Report.

And, importantly, this Budget reduces net debt from a peak of more than \$400 million in the Budget Risks Report, to around only \$50 million.

Madam Speaker, this Budget takes a balanced approach.

It is measured and it is responsible.

We said it wouldn't be a slash and burn Budget and it isn't.

It is a Budget that gets the balance right.

Rather than rushing back to surplus at a rate which could damage the emerging growth in our economy, this Budget places Tasmania's finances back on track, stimulates the economy, and delivers on our commitments to invest in essential services.

## Delivering Our Commitments

Madam Speaker, the Liberal Government places a high premium on keeping our commitments to the Tasmanian people.

This Budget delivers on each and every one of the more than 200 commitments we made to the Tasmanian people in the lead up to, and during the election campaign.

Commitments which are the foundations of our plan to grow the economy, create jobs and to rebuild essential services.

## *Jobs*

Madam Speaker, in the lead up to the March 15 election we told the community that jobs would be our number one priority and this Budget delivers on that commitment.

Our target is to reduce Tasmania's unemployment rate to at least the national average over the next four years.

Since the election, confidence is starting to return to the economy more broadly and around 2 000 new jobs have already been created.

But there is a lot more to be done.

This Budget delivers on our promised investment in jobs and the economy:

- a \$28 million Jobs Creation package to create up to 5 000 new jobs;
- a payroll tax rebate;
- a small business jobs bonus; and
- a regional revival fund to support hundreds of millions of dollars of investment and stimulate the economies of those communities hit hardest by the previous Government's betrayal of the forestry industry.

The Job Creation package also includes the \$10 million headworks holiday, which is already having a positive impact.

This package will be supported by initiatives that have already been implemented, such as reforms to Government tenders that allow more Tasmanian local businesses to get their fair share of Government tenders.

## **Backing our Competitive Strengths**

Madam Speaker, this Budget delivers on our Plan to back Tasmania's competitive strengths.

None more so than our vital tourism sector.

### *Tourism*

We recognise the value of tourism to the State and this is by far one of the most tourism-focussed budgets ever, delivered by a Government that wants to open Tasmania up to the world.

We are acting quickly to seize on the opportunities that the tourism industry provides.

Our aim is to grow visitor numbers from a million per year to one and a half million per year by 2020, creating up to 8 000 new jobs in the process and making tourism one of Tasmania's major economic drivers.

To help achieve this, this Budget invests an additional \$16 million in tourism marketing over four years, putting back in the funds which were ripped out by the former government in 2011.

Tourism is vital to boosting rural and regional Tasmania, which is one of the reasons that we are opening up national parks and world heritage areas for sensible tourism developments with an Expressions of Interest process which has the potential to be a real "game-changer" for our State.

We want to unlock Tasmania's potential.

It's well past time that Tasmania reached out to the private sector, tapped into its creativity and capital and encouraged new ideas and investment opportunities.

Madam Speaker, we have been encouraged by the level of interest both from within Tasmania and from across the globe and I am pleased that the outcomes of the EOI process will be announced early next year.

## *Agriculture*

This Budget makes good on our commitment to grow the value of the agricultural sector in Tasmania tenfold, to \$10 billion per year, by 2050.

Our \$6.55 billion plan, named Agrivision 2050, is about seizing new opportunities especially, in premium food production and accessing new markets.

We are also allocating \$24 million over four years and \$30 million overall for irrigation schemes in Circular Head, Evandale, Scottsdale, Swan Valley, and the Southern Highlands.

We will invest \$900 000 more in biosecurity to further protect our agriculture, marine and aquaculture sectors.

We are implementing our Biosecurity Tasmania plan and focusing more on protecting Tasmania's farmers and the community at large from exotic weeds, pests and diseases.

This Budget delivers on a suite of commitments to protect the well-being and health of farmers and our rural and regional communities.

We will invest an additional \$1 million in the successful Rural Alive and Well program and provide support to groups like Tasmanian Women in Agriculture and Rural Youth, the organisers of the hugely successful AgFest.

## *Energy*

Madam Speaker, the third major competitive advantage that this Budget addresses is the energy sector.

The Liberal Government is committed to attracting investment, retaining industry and securing jobs by making Tasmania the most competitive place in Australia to do business. Our energy sector underpins that.

The foundation stone of our energy sector is Hydro Tasmania, which is why this Liberal Government is steadfast in its commitment not to sell this Tasmanian icon.

This Budget invests in measures that will increase Hydro's power output and the development of a business case for a second Basslink. This Government will make energy our competitive advantage once again with a new Energy Strategy that will be in place by the end of the year.

We are committed to making the changes needed to deliver the lowest possible power prices for all Tasmanians, including our business and industrial sectors.

In particular, we remain committed to securing effective retail competition and choice, as well as ensuring our energy businesses are run as efficiently as possible.

Madam Speaker, the Government will also support developing commercial uses for forest residues including biofuels and biomass.

This Budget provides over \$500 000 to investigate the alternative uses of forest residues as well as \$200 000 on a dollar-for-dollar basis to build on the work on bio-fuels that has already been undertaken in the Dorset and Huon municipalities.

## *Resources*

Madam Speaker, the Government strongly supports forestry and mining and at the election we received a clear mandate to implement our commitments for the entire resources sector.

This Budget honours that mandate.

We have already introduced legislation to tear up the job-destroying forestry deal, but there is more that we need to do.

Our right to work legislation, currently before Parliament, will protect Tasmanian workers, including forestry workers, from radical protesters who seek to deny them the ability to earn a living.

Discussions on a new Regional Forestry Agreement with the Australian Government have already begun and we are confident of a positive outcome for Tasmania.

At the same time, we have removed the operational subsidy for Forestry Tasmania that the previous Government put in place and redirected that money to frontline services instead, where it belongs.

As a result of the previous Government's mismanagement, Forestry Tasmania faces challenges. However, we will not shirk our responsibilities to Forestry Tasmania, the industry or to the taxpayer. The Government and the Board of Forestry Tasmania are currently working together to consider options to place Forestry Tasmania back onto a financially sustainable footing.

Madam Speaker, the recent mine closures on the West Coast have been devastating for the local community.

We are supporting the community through this difficult time and working with the mining industry to develop new opportunities.

As part of that process, this Budget brings forward our promised West Coast package into this financial year and it is being rolled out to provide some short-term economic relief for the region.

We have also allocated funding for an additional mining inspector so that we can increase our presence in the State's mines and increase mine safety.

This Budget makes good on our commitment to begin the relocation of Mineral Resources Tasmania (MRT) to the North West Coast.

It is important and sensible that MRT is located in the mining region of Tasmania.

This transfer will happen over the next four years and not only will the new MRT be able to provide a better service to the mining industry once it is located closer to our mines, it will also provide an economic stimulus to the local economy of the North West.

## *Building and construction*

Madam Speaker, Tasmania's building and construction sector is worth \$2 billion a year and employs 17 500 Tasmanians.

It is going to be an important economic driver and employer in Tasmania over the next four years.

Rather than scrapping the \$30 000 First Home Builder Boost at the end of this year, as the previous Government planned, this Budget extends the Boost for six months at the rate of \$20 000 and then keeps it going at \$10 000.

There has never been a better time to build your first home than right now and I want to encourage Tasmanians interested in building their first home to take full advantage of what is one of the most attractive packages in the country.

We are rescuing the Royal Hobart Hospital, with \$437 million to be spent in the next four years of the \$565 million in funds set aside for the project. It's vital that we get this construction project off the ground to provide not just better health care, but hundreds of jobs in the building sector over a number of years.

In combination with the Australian Government, this Budget also provides \$197 million over four years to begin the task of progressively upgrading the Midland Highway, an investment that will deliver jobs as well as better infrastructure.

And of course our planning reforms will also deliver dividends by making it easier to invest in Tasmania and get developments off the ground faster, unlocking and bringing forward millions of dollars in new projects.

## Fixing the Budget Mess

Madam Speaker, the Liberal Government is absolutely committed to fixing the Budget mess.

Over the past four years, the previous Government delivered deficit after deficit with no plan to return to surplus. The Budget was left in an unsustainable position.

This wasn't caused by a collapse in revenues.

Rather, it was caused by the previous Government's unsustainable spending.

During the past four years, revenues have been more than stable.

In fact, in the past three years Tasmania actually received \$171 million more than estimated between 2011-12 and 2013-14.

But over the same period, the previous government spent \$751 million more than budgeted.

Madam Speaker, that is more than three quarters of a billion dollars more than it budgeted for and that was at a time when they were already forecasting deficits.

And all the while they were burning through the \$1.7 billion that was set aside to pay for the unfunded public sector superannuation liability.

Madam Speaker, the previous government didn't have a revenue problem, it had a spending problem. Every household in Tasmania knows that you cannot build a prosperous future if you continue to spend more than you earn and keep living on credit.

Our State cannot continue to live beyond its means. We have to stop spending more money than we earn. If we don't we will force future generations to pick up the tab for the excesses of today.

It is important that governments consider the immediate, medium and longer-term implications of their decisions. That is why unlike the previous Government, which altered its fiscal strategy on a number of occasions to suit its political objectives, this Government will stick to its fiscal principles.

We will introduce amendments to the *Charter of Budget Responsibility Act 2007* to enshrine a set of enduring fiscal principles that will ensure annual reporting of the Government's progress.

To provide further information to the community on the long-term position of the Budget, amendments will also be introduced to require a report to be released every five years on the long-term sustainability of the State's finances, with the first report to be prepared in 2015-16.

In contrast to the unsustainable spending of previous governments, this Budget reduces growth in expenditure to just 0.8 per cent per annum across the Budget and Forward Estimates.

Over the same period, revenues are forecast to grow at nearly 2 per cent. This will mean that over the medium-term, without shocking our economy, the Budget can be returned to a sustainable position.

We will continue to invest - in health, education, public safety and infrastructure - to ensure that we provide Tasmanians with the services they deserve.

## *Savings*

This Budget delivers on our pre-election commitment to deliver over \$500 million worth of savings across government.

These savings not only offset each and every one of our election commitments, they also improve the Budget bottom line.

For example, over the next four years, we are reducing total government spending on supplies and consumables by \$119 million.

We are fulfilling our commitment to reduce the number of boards and committees and the amount of taxpayer dollars spent on them.

Sixteen boards will be abolished or amalgamated and a further 18 boards and committees will have their funding reduced.

This will save \$7 million across the Total State Government sector including government businesses and we will continue to review all boards and committees on an ongoing basis to find further savings.

Creating the new Department of State Growth will save \$5 million alone in 2014-15, with ongoing savings over the following years.

We have also identified additional savings since forming Government.

We are restructuring the Tasmanian Health Organisations, including merging the three THOs into one, generating savings over the Forward Estimates.

We will also manage our police, fire and state emergency services more efficiently. While these areas operate as part of the same department, each unit has its own record keeping, email systems and payroll.

The duplication that results takes resources away from the frontline.

This Budget will make the back office more efficient so that we can invest more money into the frontline.

That's what Tasmanians expect, that's what we committed to do, and that is what this Budget delivers.

### *Pay Pause and Public Sector Jobs*

It's clear if we are going to put the Budget back on track then we have to address the blowout in wages.

That's why we went to the election with a commitment to reduce the size of the public sector by 500 positions.

However it was made clear in the Budget Risks Report that the Budget was unsustainable on current settings and that in the absence of other savings, further reductions in excess of 1000 full time equivalents were required.

Madam Speaker we have worked hard to avoid public sector job losses. We have found savings across government as well as additional revenues from our government businesses to offset the need for more job losses.

The pay pause is another way of saving jobs and provides around \$50 million a year in savings and avoids the need for a further 500 positions to go.

The choice is simple. It's either a pay pause or 500 more people need to lose their jobs.

Madam Speaker that's why we chose the pay pause.

The Government believes that there are 500 public servants and their families who would be much better off with a pay pause than no pay at all.

Madam Speaker, the Public sector unions have said that even with the pay pause 1500 jobs will need to go.

That has been echoed by our political opponents as they have sought to frighten public servants for political gain.

Let me be clear, in relation to their scaremongering they could not have been more wrong.

We said before the election that we would downsize the public sector by 500 positions and we stand by that commitment.

Of the 1000 job losses remaining according to the unions and our political opponents, I am pleased to announce that as a result of the pay pause and the other savings and revenue measures contained in this Budget, that 800 of these 1000 jobs they have claimed would go, have been saved.

Madam Speaker, the Budget contains only a further reduction of just 200 positions across the Forward Estimates. These are Labor and the Greens' job losses.

This means that rather than 1 500 jobs going, as has been claimed, the public sector will be downsized by only 700 positions across the Forward Estimates period.

## *Revenue*

Madam Speaker, the Liberal Party is the party of lower taxes.

That is why, as promised, there are no new taxes or tax hikes in this Budget. We have provided for a modest increase in fines as announced prior to the election. Tasmanians who do the right thing have nothing to be concerned about.

As Liberals, we firmly believe that after collecting enough revenue to fund essential services, it should be up to Tasmanians to work out how to spend their own hard earned money, not the Government.

We also believe that we can't tax ourselves to prosperity and while there are signs that the economy is starting to grow again, increasing the impost on Tasmanian businesses could damage that fragile recovery.

The Government will receive \$342 million from government businesses this financial year, a modest increase of \$12 million on what was forecast in the Budget last year.

This includes dividends, tax and rate equivalents as well as special dividends.

The Motor Accidents Insurance Board (MAIB) is in a very strong financial position as a result of good management and higher than expected investment returns in recent years. As result, the MAIB Board has advised that it is in a position to provide a special dividend of \$100 million in 2014-15, given the strength of its Balance Sheet and its capital requirements.

Overall, this Government believes that Tasmanian taxpayers should see a benefit from Government Business Enterprises and State-Owned Companies.

We accept that some businesses are not in a position, at this stage, to return dividends or need to build up cash reserves to meet their obligations and we will be working with those businesses to ensure that they can strengthen their balance sheets and that they are delivering value to their owners: the Tasmanian people.

## *Goods and Services Tax*

Madam Speaker, the GST remains one of Tasmania's most important revenue sources.

The methodology for distributing GST is currently being reviewed by the Commonwealth Grants Commission (CGC).

While the CGC has released a draft report recently, it does not provide sufficient information to assess the full impact of the Review.

On that basis, Treasury is reverting to using the GST projections in the Australian Government Budget as the basis for its estimates of GST receipts in this Budget.

This more conservative estimate is significantly lower than the estimates in the previous Budget. We believe it is a sensible and responsible approach in the current circumstances.

The final report is scheduled to be released in February 2015 and will inform the development of estimates for the 2015-16 Budget.

The Australian Government forecasts used in this Budget do however project moderate growth in GST revenue for Tasmania.

The future of the GST has generated some spirited discussion around the country and I can assure Tasmanians that the Government will do everything it can to fight for and protect our fair share of GST revenue.

We will also be making significant contributions to the national White Papers on Federation and Taxation on the State's behalf and we will use that opportunity again to put Tasmania's case.

The White Papers will consider reforms to Commonwealth-State roles and responsibilities, the difference between the revenue raising and spending obligations of the two levels of government and fiscal equalisation.

Through the White Papers, the Commonwealth Government is seeking to clarify the roles and responsibilities between levels of Government to ensure that, as far as possible, each level of Government is sovereign in its own sphere.

Undoubtedly, this process presents both risks and opportunities for Tasmania and it will be a key area of focus for the Government over the coming period.

## Frontline Services

Madam Speaker, the Liberal Government takes its responsibility for providing frontline services very seriously.

During the election campaign we promised to rebuild frontline services and this Budget delivers on each and every one of those commitments.

### *Health and Human Services*

This Government will direct more of Tasmania's health budget to frontline services.

We are driving efficiency in the health department and following the merger of the three Tasmanian Health Organisations, the savings that we make will be reinvested into frontline services.

Madam Speaker, it should be noted that in 2011-12, the previous government announced cuts of over half a billion dollars to health over four years.

In contrast, in this Budget total spending for the purpose of health will rise from \$1 398 million in 2013-14 to \$1 465 million in 2014-15, and while savings will still be made, the money saved will be reinvested in frontline health services, and the amount of money saved is far less than the increased funding for health.

This Budget delivers our commitment to inject an extra \$76 million into elective surgery over four years. That means up to 15 000 more elective surgery procedures and shorter waiting times.

There's no doubt that our health budget was the hardest hit as a result of the 2014-15 Australian Government Budget, with initial analysis putting losses at over \$20 million in this financial year alone.

We have been working assiduously since that time to improve this outcome for Tasmania, and the announcement last week that Tasmania will receive a further \$23 million in elective surgery funding from the Australian Government was part of that ongoing discussion.

The extra money will be reflected in the Government's 2014-15 Revised Estimates Report.

As a result of that additional funding, our own additional \$76 million investment into frontline health, and ongoing negotiations, I am confident that we will be able to fully offset the impacts from the 2014-15 Australian Government Budget on our health system.

This is what happens when you work constructively with your Australian Government counterparts, rather than the “table-banging” approach proposed by others.

Madam Speaker, in line with our commitments we are also investing \$5.4 million in additional nurse graduates, \$3 million in Hospital in the Home and other community health care options, and \$4.4 million to bring back school nurses (through the Department of Education), as well as \$3 million for the St Helens Hospital.

Madam Speaker, we said that vulnerable Tasmanians had nothing to fear from this Budget and we intend to deliver on that promise.

In Health and Human Services I am pleased to announce that this Budget includes the additional \$40 million required to fully fund our NDIS obligations in 2017-18 as well as an additional \$9.2 million in that year, to fund the equal remuneration order for employees of Non-Government Organisations (NGOs).

Madam Speaker, these two new investments build on the election commitments we made to provide an additional \$9 million to assist NGOs with rising costs as well as a further \$2 million to assist Tasmanians living with disabilities.

## *Education*

Madam Speaker, improving our education system and educational outcomes for our young people is one of this Government's core priorities.

We want to see more Tasmanians complete year 12 and we want more Tasmanians to go on to university.

A better education for our young will also benefit the State over the long-term, adding to its wealth of knowledge and boosting our persistently low productivity levels.

That is why this Budget contains record spending for education - \$5.8 billion over the Budget and Forward Estimate period, which is \$300 million higher than the four year program in last year's Budget.

This record spending fully funds our commitment to the Gonski reforms and, over six years, we will provide \$134 million, just like we said we would before the election.

In addition, we are funding our commitment to progressively extend high schools to year 12.

Madam Speaker, \$45 million will be used to expand 21 schools by 2018, including schools in Scottsdale, Smithton, the East Coast and the Huon this year.

The Budget allocates more than \$8 million to employ specialist literacy and numeracy teachers to tackle what is one of our most pressing problems in the education system.

Our additional commitment of \$4.4 million to support an extra week's paid work for teacher assistants and support staff is also funded in this Budget.

## *Police and Emergency Services*

Madam Speaker, as promised, the Government has already commenced the process of recruiting and training an extra 108 police officers to boost total police numbers to 1 228.

To support this, an additional \$33 million will be injected into frontline policing over the next four years.

Over the next four years total funding for police will increase by well in excess of 10 per cent, from \$203 million in 2014-15 to \$225 million in 2017-18.

We firmly believe that more police on the beat will lead to better outcomes in our communities and increased public safety.

This Budget also provides for the police service to rebuild its marine capabilities, following the PV Fortescue fiasco. The Budget provides an additional \$5 million over two years to enable the acquisition of a new offshore rescue vessel.

## *Infrastructure*

Madam Speaker, this Budget contains infrastructure spending at levels not seen since the Global Financial Crisis necessitated additional Commonwealth investment in infrastructure. This Budget delivers a major infrastructure investment program of \$1.6 billion across the Forward Estimates.

This is an increase of 12 per cent, or \$170 million on what was forecast in last year's Budget.

Major projects funded include the Royal Hobart Hospital rebuild, finishing the Three Capes Track and investing hundreds of millions of dollars upgrading roads and bridges right around the State.

The roads program included in this Budget will see \$733 million invested into the State's road network.

This infrastructure program will touch all areas of the State. The North will benefit from the Midland Highway and North Eastern freight roads programs, the Murchison Highway has several major projects allocated and there are substantial works planned for the Huon, Rokeby and South Arm.

We are also working on building the economic infrastructure that Tasmania's economy needs. We will soon be in a position to announce arrangements for the return of international shipping to Tasmania and we have allocated \$33 million in this Budget for that purpose.

The Budget also provides \$3.2 million to establish Infrastructure Tasmania, an independent body that will provide expert advice on the future of Tasmania's infrastructure needs.

## *Concessions*

Madam Speaker, as I have already said, this is a Budget that looks after the vulnerable.

The Australian Government has stopped funding assistance in relation to a number of concessions.

This has forced us to look at our concessions regime and I can confirm today that we will not pass on that cut in funding to concessions. We will continue to provide \$35.6 million over four years to fill that gap.

As a result, people who currently receive assistance to pay for rates, electricity, water and sewerage, public transport and drivers licences will continue to receive it, unchanged and in full.

Overall, this Budget provides around \$300 million a year, every year, for concessions.

## *Community*

Madam Speaker, I said at the outset that we were keeping our election commitments.

But those commitments are not just big picture expenditure items such as health and education and police.

They include commitments that will improve our communities right around the State.

From a grant of just \$3 000 for Men's Shed equipment through to \$3 million for suicide prevention programs we are delivering on more than 200 commitments both large and small.

These commitments will assist communities and the organisations that support them and will also deliver a significant program of shovel-ready projects that will improve the lives of Tasmanians and also give our economy a much needed boost, especially in rural and regional areas.

A Budget, after all is not just about numbers, it is about people.

## Foundations for the Future

Madam Speaker, this Budget is not just about keeping our promises and fixing the Budget mess.

It's also about laying the foundations for the future.

## *Delivery of Government Services*

The way we deliver government services in Tasmania is beginning to change as part of this Budget.

I have already highlighted a number of areas of the public sector where we will be looking for greater efficiency.

We are in the beginning stages of a review of the health system that will lead to a major overhaul of the way services are delivered. Over the course of the next nine months a White Paper will be prepared and the recommendations will be included in the 2015-16 Budget.

We want to deliver better access to services, reduce waiting list times and put the needs of patients first.

We will make the health system more accountable, deliver significant savings and reinvest those savings back into frontline services.

We are rolling out our education reforms to ensure that more Tasmanians can complete year 11 and 12. The correlation between education and healthier and more prosperous lives is well documented and we want to give more young Tasmanians the opportunities that they deserve.

We need this reform because we need to have a skilled and job ready generation to take on the opportunities that a more vibrant and prosperous Tasmania will offer.

## *TasRail and TasPorts*

Madam Speaker, TasRail and TasPorts are responsible for delivering major services to Tasmania's businesses, large and small.

We are committed to retaining full public ownership of these businesses and we have initiated a review to see what opportunities exist for achieving a closer alignment of the operating and investment strategies to deliver cost savings and service delivery improvements for their customers.

## *Planning*

Madam Speaker, regulatory reform and cutting red and green tape is as essential a reform as getting the Budget back to surplus.

Regulatory reform unlocks investment potential. It can create opportunity and jobs. It goes hand in glove with any other budgetary reform.

We are well advanced in our planning and on track to deliver a single statewide planning scheme.

This is a fundamental reform to help unlock investment and development and to make sure that our planning system looks towards the future.

I will have more to say on planning in the next few weeks as we start implementing the first stages of this vital piece of reform.

## *Department of State Growth*

One of this Government's first and most significant reforms was the merger of the former Departments of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources and Economic Development.

The new Department of State Growth is focussed on aggressively attracting and increasing investment, creating jobs and growing our economy.

It is overseeing the lion's share of our \$1.6 billion infrastructure plan and is supporting the key drivers of economic growth - resources, agriculture and fisheries, tourism and energy - and supporting our vital small businesses - the engine-room of our economy.

The Department of State Growth includes exciting new initiatives like the Office of Coordinator-General, which is currently being established and will drive investment and development in the State.

## **Conclusion**

Madam Speaker, as we said repeatedly during the election campaign, we understand that there are no silver bullets, but we have a plan for Tasmania's future.

A plan to deliver strong, stable majority government to get things done.

A plan to tackle the jobs crisis by backing our competitive strengths - in agriculture, aquaculture, forestry, mining, and tourism.

A plan to help business by cutting red and green tape, by delivering a single statewide planning scheme and by restoring an international shipping service.

A plan to fix the Budget mess, by cutting waste and making the public service more efficient, that puts the State's finances back on track without damaging the confidence beginning to emerge in our economy.

And a plan to rebuild essential services - more police, more doctors and nurses and better education outcomes by extending high schools to year 12.

That plan was overwhelmingly supported by the electorate just five months ago.

This Budget delivers on that Plan.

It puts us back on track to surplus.

It delivers a fraction of the level of debt previously forecast.

It sensibly reins in spending.

And it doesn't increase taxes.

Madam Speaker, this is a Budget that keeps our promises; begins fixing the Budget mess; and most importantly, lays the foundations for the future.

I commend the Bill to the House.



