

**Wednesday 20 June 2018**

The Speaker, **Ms Hickey**, took the Chair at 10 a.m. and read Prayers.

## **QUESTIONS**

### **Alleged Dishonesty of Premier**

**Ms WHITE question to PREMIER, Mr HODGMAN**

[10.02 a.m.]

Yesterday, when you lied without hesitation about being in the room when the Liberal Party voted to sell the ABC -

**Mr FERGUSON** - Point of order, Madam Speaker. In case the Opposition Leader is not aware, such a claim can only be made by way of a substantive motion and not by grandstanding in her question.

**Ms O'Byrne** - He came in and said it.

**Mr FERGUSON** - He did not.

**Madam SPEAKER** - I will be upholding that point of order. It is unparliamentary to refer to someone in such a manner and I ask you to rephrase the question.

**Ms WHITE** - Thank you, Madam Speaker. Premier, without hesitation, you failed to tell the truth yesterday about being in the room when the Liberal Party voted to sell the ABC. The ease with which you were dishonest is alarming and is part of a pattern of behaviour. This year, you were dishonest when you spoke to a *Sydney Morning Herald* reporter about poker machines going out to tender. They are not. You were dishonest when you told Tasmanians your proposed gun law changes would not breach the firearm agreement. They do. What else are you being dishonest with Tasmanians about and, given your history, how can Tasmanians believe anything you say?

## **ANSWER**

Madam Speaker, it is a little rich coming from a member who constantly comes into this place and often prefaces a question with a mistruth. This member shows no hesitation in saying and doing anything to create some sort of political mischief. The record of the Leader of the Opposition is not a strong one and that was reflected in the vote in March this year.

**Members** interjecting.

**Madam SPEAKER** - Order. I am not in the mood for all the toing and froing. I expect more parliamentary discipline. I will be naming people or shaming people or whatever else I have to do, if necessary. This is an important part of parliament and I expect you to respect this time.

**Mr HODGMAN** - The voters of Tasmania drew their conclusions well and truly by election night. They worked out there was something not quite right in this Opposition, which lacked

substance. They are all style but they lack substance and were not able to cogently put a case forward that they are able to govern this state. What we are seeing today is another example of that.

**Mr O'BYRNE** - Point of order, Madam Speaker. It goes to relevance. The question was about the Premier misleading parliament and about his integrity and honesty, which he clearly lacks. I ask you to direct him to answer the question.

**Madam SPEAKER** - As you would know, Mr O'Byrne, I am unable to direct anyone to answer the question. I ask that the Premier stick to the question.

**Mr HODGMAN** - Madam Speaker, coming from the member who still has a big cloud hanging over his head about some union funds he used to support a campaign two elections ago is equally as rich and galling.

Tasmanians made their decision about integrity, competence, a plan for our state and that was reflected in the vote this year. It has been affirmed this week that this Opposition lacks substance. This is a diversion from their inability to produce an alternative budget or to outline a vision and they are not prepared to say what they stand for. Yesterday was a classic example of a leader lacking substance, well supported by her colleagues.

I have made clear what occurred yesterday and I corrected the record. I apologised. What I was doing was focused and very much connected to my devices in preparing for a speech, to do a number of things.

**Mr O'Byrne** - If you were in the room you would vote against it, but you were in the room and you did not.

**Mr HODGMAN** - First, to fight for Tasmania to receive its share of the GST. Only last week, members opposite -

**Ms O'Byrne** - I would have voted for the mighty ABC.

**Madam SPEAKER** - Order. I remind my parliamentary colleagues of standing order 146. No interruptions are allowed while another member is speaking unless it is a point of order, want of a quorum, or the presence of strangers in the House.

**Ms O'BYRNE** - Point of order, Madam Speaker. You asked the Premier to address the question and he needs to talk about whether he is being honest with this House on any day.

**Madam SPEAKER** - Ms O'Byrne, with due respect, I am not certain what is going to come out of the Premier's mouth at the moment.

**Mr HODGMAN** - I was doing what they demanded me to do last week, which was to stand up for Tasmania's fair share of the GST. I was also taking the chance to advocate Tasmania's case to be the nation's energy powerhouse. I was also highlighting that Tasmania's economy and budget are now in much better shape than they were when we came to government. These are the sorts of issues I am focused on. All members opposite are focused on is political playtime.

## **ABC - Liberal Party Call to Privatised Service - Position of Premier**

### **Ms WHITE question to PREMIER, Mr HODGMAN**

[10.08 a.m.]

How can Tasmanians trust you? Yesterday, you blatantly and without flinching misled this House. You said you were not in the room when the Liberal Party voted to sell off the ABC. Now you realise you were in the room, why were you also dishonest about how you failed to stand up for this institution Tasmanians love? You said yesterday, at the same time you misled the public about not being there, 'If I was, I would have voted in support of the mighty ABC'. Premier, why did you pretend to support the ABC and pretend you would stand up to your colleagues when you did nothing of the sort?

### **ANSWER**

Madam Speaker, I will reaffirm my strong support for the ABC. I have stated publicly in the past my support for the ABC. I take the opportunity to do so again today, to note the observations of the Prime Minister when he said it will never be sold and nor should it. I totally agree with that position. I would stand up for that. I will stand up for the ABC. I will stand up for the GST. I will stand up for our state and I will do so when I am able. I was focused on matters, not so much this particular debate.

What I will also do, and what Tasmanians can trust me and this team to do, is deliver a budget and a plan for our state; deliver on all our objectives to grow our economy, keep our finances in good shape, invest more into things people care about, such as our hospitals, our schools and our roads - supporting Tasmanians at risk and keeping cost of living pressures down. That is what we are focused on. That is what we took to the election, which we won and that Tasmanians trust us to deliver again in this four years of government. That is what the 2018-19 Budget is all about.

## **ABC - Liberal Party Call to Privatised Service - Position of Premier**

### **Ms O'CONNOR question to PREMIER, Mr HODGMAN**

[10.10 a.m.]

Just confirming: we are in parliament, you are here at the table, and we are debating the future of the ABC. Sound familiar?

The Tasmanian Liberal delegation to the federal Liberal Council was 14 members who went to Sydney last week when the vote was passed to sell the ABC. According to your party's website, you, as the state parliamentary leader, are a member of the delegation. In parliament yesterday, you first said you were not there and your media Twitter account said that if you had been, you would have voted against the sale. An image of you at the table was published. Suddenly you were there but did not vote to support the ABC. Media reports confirm no member of the delegation voted against the sale and, indeed, the Tasmanian delegation erupted in applause.

Premier, which one is it? Were you so out to lunch that you were unaware of the debate and the vote? Or were you lying low, hoping no-one would notice you and not have to take on Senator Abetz and your other hard right colleagues as they vowed to kill off the ABC?

## **ANSWER**

Madam Speaker, I thank the member for the mirror image of questions from the Labor Party, which is not surprising and entirely predictable. I have explained my involvement in the Federal Council, which I never denied being at. It was reported in the papers on the weekend that I was there, making a speech in support of our state, putting our state very much at the forefront of national considerations, very much taking the opportunity to advocate for our state, as we are so often asked to do. Then, when we do it, they still complain about that.

The Liberal Party is very democratic, much more than the Greens. At least we allow the media into our conferences. They are banned by the Greens. At least we have these conferences. Labor have delayed theirs.

**Ms O'CONNOR** - Point of order, Madam Speaker. The Premier has wittingly or unwittingly misled the House. We do allow the media into our state conference every time now.

**Madam SPEAKER** - I am unaware of the answer to that one.

**Mr HODGMAN** - It may be a departure from their old practice where the media was not invited. At least you have a conference. Labor has delayed theirs, bizarrely, presumably to avoid -

**Ms O'CONNOR** - Point of order, Madam Speaker, relevance. The question was clear. It has nothing to do with us or the Labor Party; it is the Premier failing to stand up for the ABC.

**Madam SPEAKER** - Thank you, Premier, address the question.

**Mr HODGMAN** - I will do so again and stand alongside the Prime Minister, no less, and senior ministers who have said that the ABC will not be sold and never should be. I totally agree with that. I will stand up for the ABC; for our GST; for our state; and I will stand up for our Budget and what it delivers for Tasmanians. As amusing as political playtime is, what this week should be about is our state Budget. When you have no alternative, the first thing you do in politics 101 Labor is go to a diversion.

## **Net Operating Balance for 2019-20**

### **Mr BACON question to TREASURER, Mr GUTWEIN**

[10.13 a.m.]

A very simple question requiring a very simple, honest answer. What is Tasmania's estimated underlying net operating balance for 2019-20?

## **ANSWER**

Madam Speaker, I thank the member for the question. I will do better than that: if he reads the Budget, the numbers are all there. He has the opportunity to have a look at the Budget and he will very quickly be able to find the answer to that question. I am surprised he has not bothered to look at it as yet.

As there have been a few calls in this place today about honesty, have you had a good look -

**Mr O'BYRNE** - Point of order, Madam Speaker. Relevance, it is a very clear and simple question. Can you direct the Treasurer to answer the question he has been asked?

**Mr FERGUSON** - Point of order, Madam Speaker. Quite clearly, the Treasurer has answered the question. He is now providing further context. Not a soul in this room, other than the Treasurer, knows what he is about to share. The member opposite is grandstanding and that is not a point of order.

**Madam SPEAKER** - I uphold the Leader of the House as pointing out the rules.

**Ms O'BYRNE** - Point of order, Madam Speaker, a clarification.

**Mr GUTWEIN** - Thank you, Madam Speaker. It has been ruled.

**Madam SPEAKER** - I have another point of order.

**Ms O'BYRNE** - Point of order, Madam Speaker. The Treasurer was asked to give a piece of information from his Budget. If his answer is 'read the papers', then surely any minister on any day could stand here and say, 'I do not have to answer the question because I can direct you to the annual reports or I can direct you to my tweets'. The reality is, Madam Speaker, it was a very specific question. If the Treasurer is saying that he is not going to answer it then he should resume his seat and allow the next question to be asked.

**Madam SPEAKER** - Thank you, Ms O'Byrne. Unfortunately, you share my frustration in the latitude that I must give everyone in the House. Please proceed, Treasurer.

**Mr GUTWEIN** - As the shadow treasurer knows, I tabled the document with all that detail on Thursday. I am sure he has a copy. He is wasting the House's time with that question this morning.

I want to make the point regarding some claims that have been thrown around this place today in terms of honesty. I wonder if the shadow treasurer has taken the time to read his own speech from yesterday, where he misled this House - a \$1 billion mistake. He said that we will be back into net debt in the general government sector of over \$1 billion in just four years. That is patently false. He has misled the House and he should correct the record.

It is no wonder he is asking inane questions like he did a moment ago because he very clearly has not read the budget papers. What the budget papers demonstrate is that we will be in negative net debt right across the forward Estimates. We will hold net cash and investments in the general government sector across the four years, not the erroneous claim that was made in here yesterday - the false claim, the dishonest claim, by the shadow treasurer yesterday.

There are other aspects of his speech that he should correct as well. He also made the point yesterday, erroneously informing the House that we have seen the public service effectively take a real wage cut under this Government. We have a 2 per cent wages policy. Average CPI across the last four years was around 1.7 per cent. In real terms, they have done better than the cost of living.

There is his speech. He has misled the House on two occasions. He should correct the record. Any claims about honesty in this place, I say to the Labor Party to bring your own house up first.

## **Estimated General Government Fiscal Balance for 2019-20**

### **Mr BACON question to TREASURER, Mr GUTWEIN**

[10.18 a.m.]

In answer to the last question, it is an \$82.6 million deficit, Treasurer. Here is another straightforward question that requires a straightforward honest answer. What is the estimated general government fiscal balance for 2019-20?

### **ANSWER**

Madam Speaker, I thank the member for the question. It is customary in this place that when it has been pointed out that you have misled the House, that you should take the first opportunity, on your feet, to correct the record. The question needs to be asked directly of the shadow treasurer: why has he not taken that opportunity?

**Mr O'BYRNE** - Point of order. It is not for the Treasurer to ask questions of the Opposition. This is question time for the Government. The question is: what is the estimated general government fiscal balance for 2019-20? I ask you to direct the Treasurer to answer the question. If he does not know the answer, please sit him down.

**Madam SPEAKER** - Mr O'Byrne, I am unable under the standing orders to direct the Treasurer. I respectfully ask the Treasurer to make his point when he can.

**Mr GUTWEIN** - Madam Speaker, I come back to the original point I was making. They need to clean their own house first. The shadow treasurer was on his feet. He has quite clearly misled the House yesterday on two occasions and it has been pointed out very clearly-

**Mr Bacon** - According to you. You are a liar.

**Mr GUTWEIN** - Can't remember what you said?

**Madam SPEAKER** - Mr Bacon, I ask you to withdraw that very unparliamentary comment. I expect you to withdraw it, unqualified - and with heart.

**Mr BACON** - I withdraw it, Madam Speaker - unqualified.

**Mr GUTWEIN** - Madam Speaker, the numbers Mr Bacon is looking for are all in the budget papers tabled last Thursday, of which I am certain he has a copy. If he has not, they are on the website of Treasury and he can take the time to look them up. I know he is lazy but he needs to get to his feet and correct the record. Quite clearly he has misled the House on two occasions.

## **General Government Cash Balance for 2019-20**

### **Mr BACON question to TREASURER, Mr GUTWEIN**

[10.21 a.m.]

This is another question that requires a very simple answer. What is the estimated general government cash balance for 2019-20, or are you too ashamed to give the answer?

## **ANSWER**

Madam Speaker, I am happy to do this all day. As lazy as Mr Bacon is, I know he can read. The Budget was tabled on Thursday and the numbers are on the website. It brings me back to the point - when is he going to take the opportunity to correct the record? Twice now he has been on his feet and twice he has defied what is convention in this House. That is, when a matter is pointed out to you where you have misled this parliament, you should correct the record. He has failed to do so on two occasions. He should hang his head in shame and on the next occasion he gets the opportunity to stand in this place he should correct the record.

### **Budget 2018-19 - Tasmania's Future**

#### **Mr BROOKS question to PREMIER, Mr HODGMAN**

[10.22 a.m.]

Can the Premier please update the House on the Hodgman majority Liberal Government's commitment to build a better future for Tasmania, and how does this contrast to the failure of Labor to outline its plan?

## **ANSWER**

Madam Speaker, I welcome the opportunity to talk about our Budget that continues our plan to grow our economy, support more jobs, keep our finances under control and in so doing invest more into essential services that Tasmanians need. That is what our Budget does and that is what we stand for. If you look at yesterday's budget reply speech from the Leader of the Opposition, it is very hard to understand and tell what she stands for.

There were the usual motherhood statements from the Leader of the Opposition, but as her coalition colleague no less, Ms O'Connor, said yesterday, 'no vision and no substance'. That was evidenced by what the Leader of the Opposition did not talk about yesterday, which demonstrates a real lack of conviction. First, there was no alternative budget. They had nothing prepared like they did last year with their economic direction statement. No numbers, no financial statement, no credibility whatsoever. At least last year they produced an election year manifesto which at least filled out some things they would do and some things they would not.

As an opposition that has a well-earned reputation for being lazy and which is comfortably back in opposition, they could not be bothered this time around. What they plan to do, apparently, is outsource to a range of committees to get them to tell them what to do. There was nothing about the essential services that many Tasmanians need and who they say they care so much about. Yesterday's performance was as interesting for what the Leader of the Opposition did not say as what she did.

Let us fill in some gaps. Last year, for example, they said they were going to abolish the Office of the Coordinator-General. They seemed to change their position once or twice on that, but what is their position now? Do they still want to merge TasRail and TasPorts? In last year's budget reply they said they would fund investigating design and construction of a new correctional facility in northern Tasmania. That was another commitment that took on various forms during the election campaign. When Ms White was caught out, she then made matters worse by trying to verbal a

respected Tasmanian journalist about what she had been caught out on. What is their position now on the northern correctional facility they said they would develop?

In the most important area of them all, health, it was so important that they had seven versions of their health policy in a month of election campaigning. If it were not so serious, it would be hilarious. We have spelled out in our Budget our plan for our health system. Labor says it is important, but as union leader and Labor supporter Mr Tim Jacobson said last year, whilst Labor is out there saying that health is the biggest issue on voters' wish lists, they are not fundamentally addressing the issue. Nothing at all has changed. Their big idea in their budget reply last year for health, the centrepiece, was to put patients into hotels during the middle of a tourism boom. They argued that in parliament and throughout the campaign, but there was no mention of that yesterday.

They said they were campaigning for majority government and then on election night in a bizarre speech which sounded more like a victory speech, the Leader of the Opposition said they had pushed the Liberal Party to the brink of defeat. That could have only been possible if they were going to join with their colleagues and agree and were willing to do another deal. We see how close they are still with the Greens, with the wink of an eye.

In conclusion, I will point to the most obvious omission, and that was gaming policy. They pinned their colours to the mast on gaming policy. When parliament resumed this year, the Labor Leader said, doubling down on it, 'My position, Labor's position, on problem gambling and poker machines has not changed and will not change. We are not prepared to ignore the clear and compelling evidence and do nothing'. However this signature election policy and commitment by the Labor Party did not rate a single mention yesterday in her budget reply. Where do they stand on this? Tasmanians have a right to know.

They come in here and preach about transparency but they will not tell Tasmanians what their policies are. They come in here and puff themselves up as politicians of conviction but they are not prepared to say what they stand for in a budget reply speech. They were not prepared to do that and yesterday's response from the Opposition shows they are shallow, lacking substance and only interested in political playtime. Our Budget, which is a real budget for Tasmanians, is all about improving the life of Tasmanians and we will get on with the job of doing that.

### **Southwood Fibre - Development Issues**

#### **Dr WOODRUFF question to PREMIER, Mr HODGMAN**

[10.27 a.m.]

James Neville-Smith, the director of private company Southwood Fibre, has met an impassable roadblock in his plan to export woodchips from Port Esperance. Tassal has made it clear that James' woodchip proposal and their fish farm company's operations are incompatible. In James Neville-Smith's media statement he referred to alternative locations such as Electrona and Macquarie Wharf that had been previously canvassed and rejected for his private and environmentally destructive woodchip wealth generation scheme. He said he would be open to 'an alternative site'.

Last night, over 120 people packed Huonville town hall and overwhelmingly voted against this divisive last-century woodchip proposal by James Neville-Smith, in your electorate. The responsibility for fixing the headlock between these two industries now sits with you. Instead of working with your cronies and moving the chess pieces of Tasmania around behind closed doors,



will you instead listen to, and really stand by, your own communities that want future industries that benefit locals and protect our state's beauty?

**ANSWER**

Madam Speaker, I thank the member for Franklin for her question. As I have said previously in relation to this and other matters that might be the subject of an application for development, those matters are handled by the relevant planning authority, in this case the Huon Valley Council. Until such time as a proposal is brought before a planning authority such as a council, it is well within the rights of proponents of developments to look for opportunities, to do the necessary work, the due diligence, the planning, the business case assessments and those things, as you would typically expect them to do, to test the merits of their proposal. This will then need to be tested not only by the planning authority but also be subject to environmental protections and assessments and a range of matters that form a set of processes in a system that has previously and usually been supported by members in this House. This includes a Greens member who was formerly, in this case, a member of the council in question. The member now wants to subvert that process because it does not suit her political interests and calls on this Government to do so.

With respect to any opportunities for investment around our state to support the sustainable growth of our forest industry, we will support it as long as it stands on its merits and passes through the usual planning processes allowing members of the community to have their say. We will support those who want to see continued growth in our forestry, salmon, mining, tourism and agricultural industries, and in the core pillars of our economy, which are currently in the strongest performing economy in the nation; at least one of them. They are able, I respectfully suggest, to exist and operate around our state but it must be done on the basis of passing the approvals planning process. It is a matter for those proponents if and when they choose to put something forward.

**Budget 2018-19 - Tasmania's Future**

**Mr SHELTON question to TREASURER, Mr GUTWEIN**

[10.31 a.m.]

Can the Treasurer update the House on the importance of having a plan for Tasmania's future? Is the Treasurer aware of any alternatives?

**ANSWER**

Madam Speaker, I thank the member for Lyons, Mr Shelton, for that important question and his interest in this matter. On coming to government in 2014, the Hodgman Liberal Government laid out a clear long-term plan to guide our actions and decisions to ensure we continually improve outcomes for the people of Tasmania. We have delivered on our commitments and it is an important part of our record. I believe this is the key reason Tasmanians placed their trust in us again for the second term. When we went to the election, we put forward a new long-term plan to build Tasmania's future. Our plan included a comprehensive suite of policies to grow our economy, create more jobs, take action on the cost of living, protect our way of life, keep Tasmanians safe, provide essential services, and build the infrastructure Tasmania needs for the twenty-first century. Our vision for the future was clear and laid out in detail for all Tasmanians to consider. It is in stark contrast to the thought bubbles put forward by those opposite.

Instead of a policy platform, Ms White opened up with a health policy that defied economic reality, by promising increased staff and services whilst costing less. It was an economic development policy based on buying out jobs in the hospitality industry. That job-destroying and regional community-wrecking anti-pokies policy was her key policy platform. She sought to tell Tasmanians what they should think and how they should spend their money. Since the election, those opposite have been all over the place in their policy. The lack of leadership and any real plan starts at the top. That was no more evident than in the Leader of the Opposition's Budget reply yesterday, where she effectively raised the white flag. Come on. I have been in this place for a while. That was the worst, most impotent, insipid Budget reply I have ever heard, and walked right away from her policies.

**Opposition members** interjecting.

**Mr GUTWEIN** - No wonder you are cheering her on. You know where this is leading. Rather than put forward a credible vision for Tasmania, explain what her party stands for, rather than present an alternative budget explaining how she would pay for what her party stands for, she announced a suite of outsourcing policies in the role of Opposition. Ms White is going to set up around a dozen committees.

**Opposition members** interjecting.

**Mr GUTWEIN** - I can understand, Ms White. We are hearing more passion from the Deputy Leader of the Opposition today than we heard from the Leader of the Opposition yesterday. I might provide Ms White with some advice. You cannot count on her vote. Blood is thicker than water, do not worry about that. Ms White was desperate to distract from the slow demise of her leadership and that Mr O'Byrne is already running the numbers.

**Opposition members** interjecting.

**Mr GUTWEIN** - I know and everybody else knows exactly what you are doing.

**Mr Bacon** - The Premier doesn't even know what he is doing.

**Mr GUTWEIN** - I note the shadow treasurer has been energetic in this place this morning but he really knocked himself out yesterday. After a 13-minute budget reply speech last year he put his shoulder to the wheel yesterday and spent 30 minutes at it, no doubt trying to impress the new leader-of-the-opposition-in-waiting.

Yesterday, Ms White had the opportunity to outline a plan and she failed. She had the opportunity to explain what policies she took to the election, what her party now stands for and how she would pay for those policies. As I have said, and I am certain most Tasmanians feel this way, that was the worst, the poorest, most insipid response to a budget from a Leader of the Opposition in my history in this place. No doubt you are cheering it on. It is no wonder you look so happy.

On this side of the House, we know what is going on over there when you cannot even mention your flagship policy in a 30-minute speech. You talk about setting up committees and outsourcing the role of Opposition. We know where you are heading and that is to switch seats with that bloke there.

## **General Government Net Debt**

### **Mr BACON question to TREASURER, Mr GUTWEIN**

[10.37 a.m.]

Can you provide one straightforward and honest answer to a direct question? What is the total estimated deterioration in the general government net debt position over the forward Estimates? Are you too ashamed to talk about your own Budget?

### **ANSWER**

Madam Speaker, I thank the member for the question. It gives me an opportunity to explain to this House that we remain net cash and investment positive across the forward Estimates, across all four years. At the same time, we are rolling out the largest ever infrastructure program in the state's history; \$2.6 billion worth of investments into Tasmania's future. It will create jobs, it will attract further investment, and it will take Tasmania to the next level. He has once again missed the opportunity to be honest with this House, to explain -

**Mr O'BYRNE** - Point of order, Madam Speaker. The question is clear: what is the total estimated deterioration in general government net debt position over the forward Estimates? It is a direct, clear question and I ask for an answer.

**Madam SPEAKER** - Thank you, Mr O'Byrne. You would be aware of the restrictions of this position. I ask the Treasurer to continue.

**Mr GUTWEIN** - I have already answered that question. We remain net cash and investment-positive across the forward Estimates and at the same time we are driving the single largest investment into infrastructure in this state's history. This Budget will deliver jobs and opportunity and it remains in a net cash-positive position across the forward Estimates whilst we build Tasmania's future.

## **Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse - Government's Response**

### **Mr SHELTON question to ATTORNEY-GENERAL, Ms ARCHER**

[10.39 a.m.]

Can the Attorney-General please update the House on the Government's progress in responding to the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse?

### **ANSWER**

Madam Speaker, I thank the member for Lyons for the question and his ongoing interest in this important area, as I am sure the rest of the House is also interested.

Today I will be tabling Tasmania's initial response to the final report of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. The royal commission's final report comprises an executive summary, 17 volumes, and contains a total of 409 recommendations, covering a broad

range of areas including previous recommendations of the commission. Most critically, it reflects the courage of the people affected by sexual abuse, who shared their stories with the commission.

This Government has been steadfast in its commitment to protect such people so it is not surprising that many of the commission's recommendations are consistent with reforms already underway across the Tasmanian Government, including Strong Families - Safe Kids, the related Out of Home Care Foundation's project, actions under the Strategic Plan for Out of Home Care in Tasmania 2017-2019 and the Youth at Risk Strategy.

In my own portfolio area there has been the continued rollout of Tasmania's registration to work with vulnerable people scheme, amendments to Tasmania's Limitation Act to allow victims of historical sexual abuse to take legal action against perpetrators of their abuse, the introduction of statutory aggravating factors for crimes of serious sexual abuse, and the removal of good character as a mitigating factor for perpetrators of sexual abuse, when that good character facilitated their offending.

Most recently there was the important and historic decision by this Government to opt in to the National Redress Scheme, a key recommendation of the final report. In the short time since the final report was handed down in December last year, the state Government has given careful consideration to the royal commission's recommendations with a view to ensuring that the main aims of the royal commission are met.

I believe it is incumbent on all governments to prevent abuse. Where that is not possible, at the very least, to identify it early and improve the way perpetrators are investigated, prosecuted and sentenced and, finally, to improve survivors' access to justice and ongoing support. To this end, the vast majority of the recommendations in the royal commission's final report that apply to Tasmania have been accepted, or accepted in principle, by the Government, though some will require further consideration before action can be taken.

Members in this place, as well as members of the public, will have a particular interest in certain recommendations of the royal commission. I can today announce that Tasmania will be one of a number of jurisdictions in taking the lead in accepting, in principle, the need to include priests as mandatory reporters and, importantly, to lift the veil from the confessional for the purpose of such reporting. We are broadly of the view that a nationally consistent approach in such matters is desirable. Currently, mandatory reporters in Tasmania are persons prescribed by the Children, Young Person and Their Families Act and includes people employed in a range of occupations including law enforcement and health care. The royal commission's recommendations will provide for national consistency as to what persons these laws apply.

The Government also accepts, in principle, the need for a specific criminal offence, targeting the failure to report child sexual abuse and criminalising such behaviour. As this may pertain to information gained through the confessional, we have formed the view that further consideration is warranted primarily in the context of technical evidentiary matters regarding the specific criminal offence, as recommended in the final report.

We also hold the view that national collaboration is important to ensure the development of an effective offence. We have already engaged with leadership of the Catholic Church in Tasmania on this and will continue to do so. The Government recognises that this is a contentious area of law reform and that it represents a huge change to centuries of canon law. However, the royal commission shone a light into some of the darkest corners of our recent history. We must learn

from that and be prepared to make the right decisions that put the safety of our children above all else.

Consistent with the need to put children first, the Government also accepts, in principle, the Child Safe Standards, recommended by the royal commission. These standards will see child safety embedded in the leadership, governance and culture of institutions and allow children to participate in decisions affecting them.

The Government will continue its unwavering support of Tasmania's most vulnerable. In addition to the reforms I have already outlined and consistent with the recommendations of the royal commission, I will later this year be tabling legislation containing a number of reforms that will strengthen Tasmania's legal responses to child sexual abuse. This will include: amendments to the Evidence (Children and Special Witnesses) Act to improve the use of prerecordings for vulnerable witnesses; the broadening of the operation of grooming offences under the criminal code; as well as measures to improve the operation of our crime of persistent child abuse.

I take this opportunity to thank my department, and all the government agencies and departmental staff involved in coordinating the Government's initial response. It goes without saying that responding to recommendations that traverse such a broad number of subject areas across so many different departments was no small task. It has taken a lot of dedicated work to get us to this point, so thank you.

It is important that the momentum and appetite for change fostered by the royal commission is not lost. What I will be tabling today only represents Tasmania's initial response to the recommendations. We do not shy away from the fact that there is still a lot of work to be done. This Government will continue to pursue change to help and protect those Tasmanians who need it most.

I now table the Commission of Inquiry into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, final report and criminal justice report. It is large. It is in about three boxes. For practical reasons I table it in that form. I also table the Tasmanian response to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

### **Moody's Credit Rating of Tasmania**

#### **Mr BACON question to TREASURER, Mr GUTWEIN**

[10.46 a.m.]

In light of you seeing a downgrade in Moody's credit rating from AA1 to AA2, a media release issued in your name has suddenly gone missing from your website. In the release headed 'Moody's maintain Tasmania's credit rating' you say:

... Moody's highlights the importance of the Government's commitment to implementing savings and keeping expenditure growth under control and at rates far below those under the previous Government.

The ability to implement measures needed to achieve and sustain Budget improvement is vital if the State is to avoid risks to the State's credit rating.

Moody's announcement highlights that 'a weakening in the states government's resolve to achieve fiscal redress leading to ongoing deficits and a rise in its debt burden, could lead to a rating downgrade'.

Subsequently Moody's downgraded Tasmania's credit rating from AA1 to AA2.

Why are you removing material that exposes your failure to maintain Tasmania's credit rating from public view? Is this a measure of the deception and dishonesty Tasmanian's can continue to expect from you over this term of government?

**ANSWER**

Madam Speaker, I thank the member for the question. I make the point again that he has been on his feet and still has not withdrawn and corrected the record from yesterday. How many opportunities does he need? He has misled the House, after he has erroneously commented on matters in his budget contribution. He is not prepared to correct the record.

Madam Speaker, I have no understanding of whether anything has been removed from my website or not. I have to check. I will not take Mr Bacon at his word. No-one in this place could take Mr Bacon at his word until he removes the cloud that hangs over his head.

**Mr Bacon** - It paints a pretty picture, mate.

**Mr GUTWEIN** - Do not call me 'mate'; that is not parliamentary and I am not your mate.

**Madam SPEAKER** - Order, Treasurer, I remember you referring to Mr Bacon as B1 last week. We might overlook this one.

**Mr GUTWEIN** - Madam Speaker, a moment of humour.

In terms of Moody's, let us step this out. When Mr Bacon became finance minister in 2012, what happened? The credit rating was downgraded. We were dealing with your financial mess. You had set a train wreck in motion that we had to fix. That is exactly what we have done. We have righted the budget. We have surpluses right across the forward Estimates and we remain net cash and investment positive across the forward Estimates at a time when we are investing -

**Mr O'BYRNE** - Point of order, Madam Speaker, going to relevance. The question was why he took the media release off his website. This is another effort for him to fly a flag which is not going to fly. We ask him to answer the question - why did he take it down?

**Madam SPEAKER** - It is not a point of order, but I ask the Treasurer respectfully to answer the question.

**Mr GUTWEIN** - Madam Speaker, as I have said, I have no knowledge of whether that is on my website or not but I will check. I will have a look. I have made that perfectly clear. But who could believe anything that the shadow treasurer says? He would be quite prepared in a budget response to mislead the House. If the tables were turned, he would be singing out 'liar'. I respectfully ask him at the next opportunity when he gets to his feet to correct the record because quite clearly what he said yesterday is not correct. He misled the House. He made a \$1 billion mistake but on his record, people would expect nothing less because he is the failed former finance

minister. He made mistakes yesterday which he needs to correct. You cannot throw around words like honesty or liar in this place. It is the pot calling the kettle black, to be frank. He needs to correct the record.

### **Budget 2018-19 - Government Investment in Health**

#### **Mr BROOKS question to MINISTER for HEALTH, Mr FERGUSON**

[10.52 a.m.]

Can the minister please update the House on the Hodgman majority Liberal Government's strong record of investment in our health system?

#### **ANSWER**

Madam Speaker, this is a very good budget for the health system in Tasmania. I thank the member for Braddon, Mr Brooks, for his question and I am also thankful to be a part of the Hodgman majority Liberal Government that has made these investment decisions for our health system. We are very proud to be continuing this investment that we have already been making over the last four years, supplemented massively in this Budget that was handed down last week. We have done the hard work over the last four years, made very tough decisions, rebuilt funding for Health, rebuilt health services that were decimated under the previous Labor-Greens government and have over \$350 million of new funding over the next four years.

Has there ever been a time where a government has brought down a budget with an extra \$350 million of new funding over the budget period and forward Estimates? No, it has never happened before. That figure has only ever been beaten by the cuts that Labor brought in in 2011, where they slashed half a billion dollars out of our health system and doctors warned that it would take 10 years to recover. Importantly, our policy also spells out exactly how we will deliver our six-year long-term plan with \$757 million to build a better health system, which we know Tasmanians deserve.

**Ms O'Byrne** interjecting.

**Mr FERGUSON** - The member who is now interjecting was part of a government that slashed health and sacked 287 nurses - one nurse a day for nine months.

Because we have fixed the budget it means that we can now invest into frontline services, reversing Labor's devastating cuts, and build the facilities, that is, the buildings that we need to expand. Wherever members would call for more beds, I say yes, and to do that, because we have reversed Labor's cuts and we have reopened those wards, we will need to build more buildings. That is exactly what this Budget delivers in spades for Health, with \$341 million more recurrent funding than in 2014-15.

To correct incorrect statements made by members opposite, I also want to make it clear that we are delivering on every single promise we made that we took to the election. Voters supported our first and final version of our policy and we are kicking off the rollout of almost 300 new beds in hospitals, including 250 at the Royal. I am pleased to say that the highly successful Community Rapid Response which was previously known as Hospital in the Home before it was cut by the O'Byrne health minister at the time, will be rolled out now after its successful reintroduction into

the north-west and the south. This is a GP referral model where we go to people's homes and provide them with care, reducing presentations in our very busy emergency departments. We are very pleased to be able to support that.

We will boost mental health with 25 more beds and specialist child and adolescent mental health facilities. We have never had those in Tasmania in our history; that is a first for the north and the south. We will recruit even more paramedics to drive down response times and provide more support and more staff for our service.

We will finally proceed with the \$10.5 million second stage, which Mr Brooks in particular has been pushing, of the King Island Hospital redevelopment, one of the two islands completely ignored during the election by the member who is now interjecting. Ms White could not be bothered and would not be bothered going to Flinders Island. They were completely ignored by her as the forgotten Tasmanians. We will never forget our regional communities.

These are real commitments. This is real delivery that means more Tasmanians can get the care they need when they need it, which is what they deserve. They hear politicking from the Labor Party with their now traditional every election Mediscare approach, but we are actually delivering. Unlike the Labor Party's sham election policy - all seven or eight versions of that Labor Party policy which kept changing with different audiences getting a different version - we spelt out exactly how each of the three regions would be benefiting. Now it appears that Labor has walked away from their election policies just as Ms White has walked away from Health. She falsely asserted it was her first priority but as soon as the election was done and dusted, she dusted off her hands and walked away from Health.

I am not surprised, especially given the appalling sham that was Ms White's health policy, all seven versions of it during the campaign. I am appalled that yesterday during the opportunity for the Leader of the Opposition, there was no commitment to health policy in the alternative. No policies, no leadership, no alternative budget and no alternative health budget. They have utterly failed. I can hear the discomfort from members opposite but it is squarely on Ms White and her leadership crisis.

In closing, I will make it clear that their health policy was so unbelievable they had to rewrite it six or seven times, moving the goalposts every time, and now it is zero years, not six, not three, not five, it is none, because they can now not ever claim any credibility on budgets ever again.

The Treasurer mentioned their pokies policy. What about medi-hotels? That did not get a mention yesterday. It was the centrepiece of last year's budget reply but where has it gone? I believe you were embarrassed at your appalling mismanagement of this area.

### **Budget 2018-19 - Expenditure Growth**

**Mr BACON question to TREASURER, Mr GUTWEIN**

[10.59 a.m.]

The dishonesty and outright deception contained within your Budget becomes more apparent and clearer each day. You claimed in your budget speech that you can limit expenditure growth to just 1.6 per cent this year. How does that compare to previous years and what has been the average annual rate of expenditure growth over your four years as Treasurer?



## ANSWER

Madam Speaker, I thank the member, Mr Bacon, for the question. In the prelude he spoke about dishonesty. Again he has not taken the opportunity to correct the record. Yesterday he wilfully misled the House and as yet has not been prepared to correct the record, yet he will demand it of us. He misled the House yesterday and he needs to clean the matter up. He should do at the first opportunity.

**Ms White** - You cannot make stuff up.

**Mr GUTWEIN** - Make it up? It is on the *Hansard*. If you bothered to listen to what you shadow minister was saying you would know he misled the House, not once but twice. It is entirely up to the Labor Party how they conduct themselves when they have made erroneous statements in this place or misled this House. This side of the House will clarify the matter at the first opportunity. That side of the House will construct anything to take themselves off the hook. That is what Mr Bacon is attempting to do.

**Mr O'BYRNE** - Point of order, Madam Speaker. The Treasurer has been asked five very different and specific questions on the Budget and he has given the same pathetic answer every time, which does not relate to any one of those questions. The question was about the average annual increase rate in your expenditure. We ask him to answer the question, once. If you do not want to hold onto your budget, sit down and we can move on with it.

**Madam SPEAKER** - Mr O'Byrne, as you are aware I am restricted from instructing the Treasurer to answer it. I am now going to call time on questions, thank you Treasurer.

**Time expired.**

## MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

### Honesty in Government

[11.03 am.]

**Mr BACON** (Denison - Motion) - Madam Speaker, I move -

That the House take note of the following matter: Honesty in Government.

This has been sadly lacking over the last four years. You saw no starker example than the example yesterday, when the Premier was caught telling mistruths in this place about something that would be pretty hard to mistake; your own location - it would be hard to be wrong about that - and what were you doing at the time. We all know the Premier is an intelligent man and there is no way it was inadvertent. He attacked the Opposition, the Greens and the media for not telling the truth, the whole time telling mistruths himself. He knows it, we know it and he only revealed the truth when it was revealed in a photo that he was in the room. We know he had his head down, looking at his phone. We are not sure why he was ignoring the vote or had his head down. It may have been the presence at the other end of the table, wildly clapping away. He may have been trying to avoid Senator Abetz's notice. That is fair enough. I stay out of Senator Abetz's way as much as I can too. You are in the same party and you are leader of the state and you are probably not required to be as gutless as I am when it comes to Senator Abetz.

We know the Premier wilfully misled and then returned to the House. It is still a strange thing when it is reported that all members of the Tasmanian delegation voted in support of the motion to sell the ABC. It still does not seem to gel with the Premier's second statement that he did not vote in support of the motion when it has been reported that all -

**Mr Hodgman** - I certainly did not.

**Mr BACON** - Certainly did not? Did you vote against?

**Mr Hodgman** - As I said yesterday, I didn't participate in the vote.

**Mr BACON** - You did not participate in the vote?

**Madam SPEAKER** - Order, through the Chair.

**Mr Hodgman** - No, as I said yesterday.

**Mr BACON** - It is about honesty. We have seen a total disregard for that over four years, highlighted -

**Mr Hodgman** - You are now trying to assert that I voted in support of the motion, which is patently untrue. Again, you are misleading.

**Madam SPEAKER** - Order.

**Mr BACON** - It has been reported that all of the Tasmanian delegation voted in support of the motion. It would be interesting to see if there is any record. This is about the responsibility of government to be honest with the people who have elected them. Unfortunately, this Government has a long track record of dishonesty and spin. The Premier showed that yesterday. We saw it again through the election campaign. They misled a member of the national media, as to the Government's position on poker machines and the tender. Either he had not read his own policy or he set out to deliberately deceive a national reporter. The reporter did not fall for it. All we received was a mealy-mouthed clarification from the Premier's minders attempting to cover up for their master's embarrassing mistake.

Before the election, the Liberals' firearm policy was exposed. The Premier insisted the policy did not breach the National Firearms Agreement, despite clear evidence to the contrary. He insisted he had advice that the policy did not breach the NFA but refused to release the advice. He also refused to say whether the advice, which appears to have come from the member for Lyons, Mr Hidding, was wrong. Now we have Gun Control Australia taking the Government to court to produce the advice. It would be a step forward in transparency if the Premier would table that advice in this place and we could all move on.

The Premier's performance yesterday might be the best of his career in making, at best, extremely misleading statements. The Premier was asked a simple and direct question about why he did not intervene to stop his party colleagues from voting to sell the ABC. His answer was swift, it was unhesitating and it was definitive. The Premier said yesterday -

No, I was not in the room when this vote was taken. If I was I would have voted in support of the mighty ABC, as indeed the Prime Minister and senior ministers

have indicated their very strong support for the national broadcaster. So would I if I was there.

He then began a great attack on the Opposition. He had the temerity to lecture the Opposition and the media about not knowing the facts. Then the Government spin machine whirled into action, insisting the Premier was not in the room. The problem for the Premier was that in the modern day there is video footage putting him at the scene of the crime. When he was caught red-handed, there was no humility from the Premier, not a hint of embarrassment or contrition that he had so blatantly misled parliament; simply more excuses. Tasmanians are mystified as to how a Premier could be so unaware of what was going on around him that he would not know if he was in the room. It is extraordinary.

**Ms White** - He is not in the room right now.

**Mr BACON** - Yes, we will ask him later if he was in the room for the MPI and he will swear black and blue he was. It is the way this guy operates.

You are entitled to be concerned that the Premier failed to stand up for the ABC when he had the chance. He misled the House when he was caught out. If the Premier is prepared to mislead Tasmanians about matters of importance such as firearms, poker machines and the ABC, what else is he prepared to mislead us on? How can Tasmanians believe a word that comes out of this Premier's mouth? How can we believe his assurances that Tasmania's share of the GST is secure?

If you want further evidence of this Government's dishonesty, you only have to look at the state Budget. We have seen an article from John Lawrence in the *Mercury* today headlined, 'Only budget buffer is the one between fiction and reality'. It says -

The Treasurer crows about surpluses each year. But in 2017-18 the government will spend 103 per cent of what it receives. In the next two years, it will be 106 per cent. If you're running down cash reserves with more and more hay taken from the barn, then clearly you're not building a buffer.

I could not agree more. The Treasurer said, 'It is reckless to spend more than you have.', yet on a cash basis he is spending almost \$250 million more than the revenue he has forecast to receive over the Budget and forward Estimates period. This is a dishonest government, a dishonest Premier, a dishonest Treasurer and a dishonest budget and you should tell the truth for once.

**Time expired.**

[11.09 a.m.]

**Mr GUTWEIN** (Bass - Treasurer) - Mr Deputy Speaker, what a rant that was. The Premier clearly was honest yesterday. He corrected the record at the first opportunity, as he should and as is expected in this place. Yet the shadow treasurer on numerous occasions today has failed to take the opportunity to correct the record in respect of the misleading statements he made yesterday. No doubt we will see him try to spin his way out of it. Very clearly he said yesterday two things that were true, one of which was that public sector wages were keeping pace with inflation, which they have done. He then misled the House on a second occasion when he erroneously claimed that the state general government sector would be \$1 billion in debt. That is what he said yesterday. He can say it is not true but he knows he has been caught out on these matters. What he said yesterday was not correct and he should correct the record.

I checked the question he put to the Premier yesterday regarding the total state sector. He then went on to say in his contribution in speaking about the Premier this morning that we would be back into net debt in the general government sector of over \$1 billion in just four years. That is patently false, Mr Deputy Speaker, yet he comes into this place to speak about honesty. He needs to correct the record.

The Premier demonstrated leadership yesterday when at the first opportunity he corrected the record, which is what a member of this place should do. On that side of the House we do not see that being returned in kind. Look at the dishonest way the Leader of the Opposition used her budget reply speech, not explaining to Tasmanians where she stood on key policy matters. The Leader of the Opposition was out and about for around three months leading up to the election campaign outlining a range of policies, some of which defy health economics, in fact any form of financial management in terms of their health policy.

They talk about honesty. How can you have an honest health policy that is supposed to provide more services, more staff, yet over the course of the forward Estimates actually costs less? Tell me how that is not dishonest. You cannot. You are caught. You signed off on a financial policy that took money out of the Health budget. If you had been honest in your health policy you would have explained how many people you were going to sack, because that is exactly what you would have had to do on the profile of the health spending that was included in your budget.

Yesterday the Leader did not take the opportunity to explain clearly what they stand for as an opposition. She did not take the opportunity to provide an alternative budget that explains what they stand for, how they would afford it and what they would spend. They missed that opportunity. Then we saw the shadow treasurer come into this place and mislead the House in his contribution. He should correct the record. It is clear from the *Hansard* that he did, yet he brings into this place an MPI on honesty. To be frank, he should take a good look at himself. He has been caught red-handed yet he does not have the courage to stand up in this place and explain that he got it wrong.

It would probably wash over most people because they expect this shadow treasurer to get things wrong. That has been his record. He funded a health policy over the forward Estimates that costs less and delivers more. How can that be truthful? How on Earth can they claim that is a health policy that will deliver for Tasmanians when quite patently it will not? What they should have done in their health policy is explain that they were going to start sacking people in the second and third years of it because there is simply no way, with the funding they have put into their health policy, that they could keep the same level of staff and services operating. It defies any law of economics. Their health policy would have cost Tasmanians jobs and that is what they set out to deceive Tasmanians with. They started off with a health policy which we all know was for maybe five or six years.

**Mr Ferguson** - Six.

**Mr GUTWEIN** - Thank you - six and then it was five, and at one stage I think it was down to three. The Health minister knows very clearly what was being announced during the election campaign. It was false and it was erroneous.

**Time expired.**

[11.16 a.m.]

**Dr WOODRUFF** (Franklin) - Mr Deputy Speaker, on the matter of honesty in government, we can start with November 2016, when the Joint Standing Committee on Integrity recommended that this parliament adopt a single code of conduct for members of parliament. The joint standing committee has since that time been relentlessly promoting the importance of this code of conduct to all members of parliament. This Premier has relentlessly dodged and weaved at every opportunity put in front of him to bring that into parliament. It was only last year, on 28 November 2017, that we debated a motion in this House to adopt the new code of conduct for all members of parliament so that it could have been in place in this new parliamentary session.

The Premier has failed at every stage to pick up this very important regime change that this parliament needs to have. The reason he has done that is because it would be very inconvenient and unpleasant for this Premier and this Government to do what the Integrity Commission has recommended, which is to adopt a well-developed code of conduct to motivate elected members and public officers to act ethically - so that they understand what constitutes ethical behaviour and the consequences of failing to act appropriately.

Just yesterday in parliament we had a shameful example of the Premier of Tasmania telling a complete untruth, rabbiting on about the fact that he had forgotten he was there, running into the House and breaking into the business of the House to retract the statement he had made. Very clearly the only reason he beetled into the House to break into the business of the day and retract his comment from Question Time was because he knew he had been caught out. He would not have done that unless it was tweeted just before he walked in that there was a photograph circled with him sitting there.

Was he playing Angry Birds? Was he playing Candy Crush? We will never know what the Premier was looking at on his phone when he was sitting in the line of chairs with Eric Abetz and the other hard right Tasmanian Liberal delegation not standing up for the ABC, not speaking out against the privatisation of public communication, our national broadcaster, which so many people in Australia rely on day in and day out as an impartial source of news. It is the voice in every emergency, the single place that we go to. How dare this Premier not stand up for the ABC, but not only that - worse than that - how dare he pretend that he was ever going to? He had the opportunity; he did not take it and worse than not taking it, he came in here and he made a completely untrue statement about the fact that he was not in the room when he was.

This Liberal Government has reeked of dishonesty throughout the last four years. We are now moving into a term of government that was bought because of pokies money that was paid to the Liberal Party. They bought this election. This Premier will carry the shame, the stain, of an election that was bought by a private company for the wealth generation of one of Australia's very richest men who does not live in Tasmania. Nothing of this goes to Tasmanians. It goes to him and his family, the Farrell family, in New South Wales. We know it was bought because the THA got an extra \$4.8 million in this year's Budget. That was payback for the relentless advertising in newspapers and on television stations in the middle of the cricket over the summer. The blue banners on the sides of the roads - the Liberal Party of Tasmania did not pay for that. That was payback to Greg Farrell, to Steve Old and all the other guys who have continued to have the wealth flowing out of the poorest people in Tasmania into the hands of a family in New South Wales.

This is how this Liberal Government has started its next term of governing for Tasmania; with an election that was bought, with a series of gun laws they are proposing to bring in which they did not tell Tasmanians about. They hid them. Everything about the operation of this Government is

about normalising secrecy. It is normal, apparently, to go to stakeholders in a private arrangement and change and weaken Tasmania's gun laws without telling Tasmanians, and then to dishonestly claim that there is a mandate to do that. There is no mandate to change Tasmania's gun laws. Tasmanians want them to stay strong; they do not want them to be weakened.

Tasmanians are sick of the secret dealings of the Office of the Coordinator-General. That office was cooked up as a way to funnel private developments outside of the planning scheme, outside of the sunlight of public scrutiny, outside of a formal appeals process, to set up private developments like the one that is proposed for the top of Rosny Hill, which would effectively scalp the top of that beautiful nature conservation area and put in a huge private development.

It was the Office of the Coordinator-General that cooked up a Chinese petro-chemical company taking Crown land on the foreshore in Kangaroo Bay to build a hotel using publicly-owned land.

**Time expired.**

[11.23 a.m.]

**Mr HIDDING** (Lyons) - Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise with a sense of incredulity. The Opposition is going on with the nonsense this morning that somehow the Premier has deliberately misled this House on a matter of what took place at Liberal conference on the mainland over the weekend - as though that was even an important matter. Those Liberal conferences are videoed the entire time because it is public. Therefore why would he seek say something that was not true if it was about his presence in the room? He firmly believed that he was not in the room at the time because he was concentrating on a major speech he was about to make for his state - for the state that he loves. He was focusing on his important speech because that is what he does. He focuses on the job at hand and stands up and speaks for Tasmania. That is what he did. In this place he believed he was not present for that debate. He said what he honestly believed. When it was shown that he was in the room, he came straight back to say that he was clearly wrong. He apologised. To go on with it for the second day on something as small as -

**Ms O'Connor** - As the future of the ABC, are you serious? It actually goes to the issue of the Premier's honesty.

**Mr HIDDING** - The nonsense of that proposition - that you would waste time in question time today and on a matter of public importance over an innocent mistake. It was an innocent mistake the whole world would understand. The whole thing was being videoed so he would not deliberately stand up and mischaracterise something as plain as whether he was in or out of the room. He was clearly there.

The matter of honesty in elections and in this place generally, and the matter of integrity, are important matters. As we have just heard, the Integrity Commission has a code of conduct out for discussion.

**Dr Woodruff** - They have had it out for two-and-a-half years. What are you talking about?

**Mr HIDDING** - I was put on the original Integrity Commission Joint Standing House when it first started. It was about five years ago. There was a draft code of conduct then. Various iterations have been circling around this parliament for some time. It is something we hope to deliver in due course.

**Dr Woodruff** - That is a shameful comment. How can you say that? How much more due course do you need? It's been nine years.

**Mr HIDDING** - I was on the original Joint Standing Committee. You have been on it since and you could not deliver it.

**Dr Woodruff** - Do not blame us.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** - Order, Ms Woodruff, you will get your opportunity, so the interjections will cease.

**Mr HIDDING** - Talking about budget honesty during the election campaign at the CEDA Event, the shadow treasurer committed to release a financial statement and then delayed releasing it until the eleventh hour and showed why. Analysis of their policies revealed that the total cost would be \$584 million in recurrent spending and \$422 million in capital spending. That showed Labor would trash the state Budget. Their financial statement, thrown out at five minutes to midnight included seven major errors, including phantom redirected revenues with money that did not even exist; a health policy that spends less each year defying common sense; and an education spend that is short-changed on what is promised. Tens of millions of dollars of promises were committed but completely vanished in their financial policies. They previously left the state with more than \$1.1 billion in projected deficits and net debt blooming out to over \$400 million.

It is clear they have not learned their lesson since. Tasmanians took the view that you cannot trust Labor with money. The Liberal record in Government stands for itself. We took that economic and financial wreckage, the sea of red ink, that was left by Labor and in four short years we have turned it around. We have delivered a resurgent economy and a repaired budget. We have achieved this while continuing to increase investment in the essential services health, education and infrastructure that Tasmanians rightly expect of their Government. Our policy package presented a clear vision for Tasmania with policies aimed at delivering on the 43 targets of our plan. We put the 43 targets of our plan across six broad themes out there. We are delivering on it. The Budget that is before us for the next few weeks will keep Tasmanians safe, it protects the Tasmanian way of life and builds Tasmania's infrastructure for the 21st century.

**Ms White** - While you're on your feet let's talk about the advice you gave the Premier on gun laws.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** - Order.

**Mr HIDDING** - Within a very short period your spokesman on Police completely backed our policy on firearms.

**Ms White** - Absolutely not true.

**Mr HIDDING** - He was out there at 100 miles an hour.

**Ms WHITE** - Point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker. I regard the comment by the member for Lyons to be untruthful.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** - That is not a point of order. The member for Lyons has the call.

**Ms White** - It is not true. We are talking about the topic of truth.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** - Order. Ms White you will have your opportunity.

**Mr HIDDING** - In contrast to the material provided by the state Opposition, our policies were fully costed and we supported that by presenting our fiscal strategy and financial statement. Consistent with our fiscal strategy, our financial statement demonstrated we are committed to living within our means and delivering a budget surplus in each and every year. We are able to do this because only we understand the importance of not building unsustainable levels of recurrent spending.

**Time expired.**

[11.30 a.m.]

**Ms WHITE** (Lyons - Leader of the Opposition) - Mr Deputy Speaker, let us be clear. Two hundred of the policies this Government took to the election were not even made public, so to argue that you had a fully costed policy platform is untruthful, which goes to the whole reason we are debating this motion in the House today - honesty in government. This Government is not an honest government, demonstrated not just by the fact that they told mistruths to the people of Tasmania before the last election. The former minister for police, Mr Rene Hidding, who was just on his feet, could have provided advice to the House just then about the information he gave the Premier that the gun law changes they wanted to pursue did not breach the National Firearms Agreement. That advice is still not clear. In fact, the Premier is being taken to court over it.

This is a dishonest government. The Premier yesterday came into this House and without hesitation misled the parliament, but worse than that, he misled the people of Tasmania. It was not just in the parliament that he came in and said blatant, bald-faced mistruths to the people of Tasmania by saying he was not in the room when this vote was taken and if he was he would have voted in support of the ABC, it was broadcast on social media. It was not just the parliament that was misled yesterday, it was the public of Tasmania and indeed the world.

When he came in yesterday and corrected the record to say he was in the room and that he failed to stand up for the ABC during that motion, it was not a genuine apology: it was a poor excuse. I am genuinely curious to understand how you can be in a room for a debate on an issue like that and not remember where you were. How could you not remember where you were? How can it be that from Saturday to Tuesday, even with all the media reporting we had with Senator Eric Abetz clapping his hands in applause at the sale of the ABC, that the Premier of Tasmania could not think to himself. 'Gee, I wonder what happened and where I was during that vote on that important institution for Tasmania, the ABC?'. He did not think about it at all because he does not care about the ABC. He did not reflect on where he was. He did not think about the fact it was reported in the media that the entire Tasmanian delegation voted for the sale of the ABC and think, 'I'm a part of that delegation, I wonder how I was involved or wrapped up in that? Was I in the room or not?' He did not think about that?

This is a premier who was very quick yesterday to mislead and he did it without hesitation. It was only when he was caught out, when there was evidence displayed of him sitting in that room, that he came clean. Why does that matter? Because it makes us question what else has he not been truthful about. How else has he misled the people of Tasmania? We deserve to have an honest government. We deserve to have an honest premier and this is a premier who cannot tell the truth - and a treasurer who cannot tell the truth.



The Treasurer came in here just then and misrepresented remarks by our shadow treasurer, Scott Bacon. If you look at the *Hansard* from yesterday you can see very clearly what the shadow treasurer said about wages. He said that the budget forecast - and if the Treasurer still has not found where his budget papers are I will direct him to page 24 of budget paper no. 1. It forecasts that the CPI index year on average is to change by 2.25 per cent. What is the wages cap? It is 2 per cent. Mr Bacon said yesterday that this means each and every year under this Government these workers will receive a real wage cut. That is the truth. The shadow treasurer told the truth. The Treasurer came into this House and tried to misrepresent him and he is not being honest with the people of Tasmania when he does that. Why are we not surprised? We had six questions to this Treasurer today and he could not answer one of them. He arrogantly said to read the budget papers. We have read the budget papers and we are alarmed because what they say is very different from the rhetoric from this Treasurer.

Talking about promises that were made, where is the 90 per cent MAIB dividend? What happened to that? What happened to the fact that this Treasurer was going to prop up his budget bottom line with taking dividends from the MAIB? It is not even in the budget papers anymore. That line item has been removed. Talk about deceptive. This is a budget that is very different from the rhetoric the Treasurer is telling Tasmanians.

The Liberals are claiming they are pulling Tasmanians out of debt but the reality is that there has not been any net debt in Tasmania since 2005. Not even during the GFC did Tasmanians go into debt, yet this Budget will bring Tasmania perilously close to net debt within the next four years. Just a 0.07 per cent decrease in forecast revenue would put Tasmania back into net debt for the first time in 15 years. They are not good budget managers on that side of the House. From an estimated negative net debt amount of \$622.4 million as at 30 June 2018, net debt is expected to deteriorate to negative \$51.6 million by 30 June 2022, a deterioration of well over half a billion dollars in just four years. The Liberals claim that they have kept expenditure growth in check. That is not the case and if the Treasurer bothered to read his own budget papers it would be clear to him to see that.

The Treasurer referenced the CEDA speech given by the shadow treasurer. What about the CEDA speech given by the Premier where he trumpeted the fact that the total state sector net debt would be out of net debt. He said:

We've eliminated net debt and I can confirm today, that for the first time ever, total state sector - that's the general government sector, including our state-owned companies and GBEs - is net debt-free ...

Guess what the Budget says? Total state sector net debt will deteriorate to well over \$1 billion over the forward Estimates. This is a government that cannot manage the budget, it is not honest with the people of Tasmania and the Treasurer and the Premier know it.

**Time expired.**

**Matter noted.**

# CONSOLIDATED FUND APPROPRIATION BILL (No. 1) 2018 (No. 16)

## Second Reading

Resumed from 19 July 2018 (page 106)

[11.38 a.m.]

**Mrs PETRUSMA** (Franklin - Minister for Disability Services and Community Development) - Mr Deputy Speaker, it is my pleasure and honour to speak today in response to the Hodgman Liberal Government's first budget of our second term and the fifth budget we have delivered overall. Before I speak about some of the commitments we have made in my electorate of Franklin and in my portfolio areas, I take this opportunity to reflect on some of the Treasurer's speech and in doing so congratulate the Treasurer. His hard work and effort in putting together a budget that will set Tasmania up for the future is to be admired.

Tasmania is indeed a very different place to where it was five years ago when we came to government. Our economy is now one of the fastest growing and strongest in the country and most noticeably, as you travel around Tasmania, there is a confidence that was missing five years ago. Survey after survey backs up this sense of optimism and Tasmanians these days are much prouder and more confident about our future. It should also not go unnoticed that as a government we achieved more than 50 per cent of the vote for the second election running. It was a resounding victory and a clear vindication of the work that we have done since 2014, as well as a clear indication that Tasmanians want to keep heading in the same direction.

The people of Tasmania have recognised the benefits that come from stable majority government and they want this to continue. Since being in government, over 13 400 jobs have so far been created in Tasmania, a far cry from the 10 000 that were lost under four years of a Labor-Greens minority government. We now have an unemployment rate lower than former powerhouses such as Western Australia and Queensland and, as the Treasurer pointed out, we are now in a position where we can legitimately aim to have the lowest unemployment rate in the nation by 2022. We were often derided by those opposite over the last four years for consistently pushing the message that we had a plan for a brighter future, but we never backed away from our plan. We firmly believe our plan is the key to long-term success. By sticking to our plan we were able to pay off the over \$1 billion in deficits we inherited from the previous Labor-Greens government. We delivered the best financial result in a decade, with a budget surplus ahead of schedule and the delivery of surpluses since, and this Budget no exception.

When we came to government we made it clear that putting the budget back on track was critical if we wanted to fund priorities important to Tasmanians such as health, education, housing, infrastructure and protecting our most vulnerable. This Budget is proof we meant what we said and Tasmanians can now see the benefit of the decisions we made. The Tasmanian Council of Social Services, TasCOSS, CEO, Kim Goodes, stated in regard to the Budget in her budget statement on 14 June -

Today's State Budget continues the Government's strong investment and commitment to our most vulnerable Tasmanians and recognises that cost of living pressures are a reality for many in this State.

'We applaud the Government's investment in cost of living measures, child protection and family violence'...'These investments demonstrate the Government cares about Tasmanians living on low incomes and struggling through difficult times'.

Ms Goodes was correct. The Hodgman Liberal Government does care about Tasmanians living on low incomes and it is why this Budget has a strong focus on supporting Tasmanians in need. It is also why the Budget includes an extra \$125 million to implement stage 2 of our Affordable Housing Strategy, which will assist 2000 households, including 1500 new affordable homes. Along with stage 1, this represents the largest ever investment into affordable housing; almost \$200 million over eight years and taking the total of new affordable homes to 2400. We are extending the \$20 000 first home owner's grant for 12 months, providing a 50 per cent stamp duty concession for seniors downsizing their home and a first home buyer's 50 per cent duty holiday, which represents a saving of up to \$7000 to help more Tasmanians realise their dream of downsizing or affordable home ownership.

This Government is committed to supporting generational change for children, which is why we are investing \$24 million toward: employing more child safety officers, further bolstering our comprehensive whole-of-government child safety system redesign, extending out-of-home care to the age of 21, and ensuring our out-of-home care system provides the best possible care. This is in addition to the \$16.7 million already announced during the election for child safety and youth justice.

We are responding to cost of living pressures with almost \$300 million dedicated to reducing household expenses such as water, sewerage, rates and electricity costs.

As a proud member for Franklin, I will mention a few important projects in the south of the state, including upgrades to Illawarra, Snug and Montague Bay Primary Schools and the Southern Support School.

We are delivering \$30.8 million toward the greater Hobart traffic vision, including the establishment of the Derwent River ferry service as well as priority measures; a fifth lane on the Southern Outlet and improvements to Macquarie and Davey Streets. We are investing \$51.7 million towards upgrading state roads in the south, including the Channel Highway, East Derwent Highway, Huon Highway, Richmond Road, the Tasman Highway at Rosny, and the Southern Midlands Highway. This is in addition to \$25 million in roads funding to support Tasmania's visitor economy, including upgrades to Hastings Cave Road, Bruny Island Main Road, Fortescue Bay Road and Arve Road.

With the population growth and investment in Kingborough, I am pleased to see funding has been set aside for a new early learning hub in Kingston, along with a new integrated health centre on the old Kingston High School site in Kingston CBD.

Since the 2018 election, I have had the pleasure and honour of serving as the Minister for Disability Services and Community Development, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister for Women and Minister for Sport and Recreation. I will now speak about some of the specific funding commitments in each of my portfolio areas.

As the minister for Disability Services, I am extremely proud of our contribution in this area. There is \$900 million for disability support and services over the forward Estimates, with

\$878.7 millions of this in cash and in-kind contributions to the National Disability Insurance Scheme, the NDIS, over the 2018-19 Budget and forward Estimates. We have allocated an additional \$21.2 million over and above our NDIS commitment, which includes \$20 million in stage 2 of our Affordable Housing Action Plan for disability-specific housing. There is also increased funding to the peak body, National Disability Services, of \$200 000 per annum for the next three years to support the necessary growth and transition of our disability service providers to the NDIS.

We have committed additional funding of \$150 000 over three years to extend our research partnership with the Australian Autism Cooperative Research Centre in establishing an Autism Cooperative Research Centre in Tasmania. We are also investing an additional \$300 000 over three years to reduce wait times for autism spectrum disorder diagnostic services, allowing children with ASD and their parents and carers to access earlier diagnosis, assessment and support.

It was pleasing to see more support for students with disability with my colleague, the minister for Education, providing \$250 000 for the design and testing of a needs-based funding model for students with a disability and an additional \$3 million to further implement the recommendations of our ministerial taskforce into education for students with a disability.

We are also increasing core funding to our peak bodies. As the minister responsible for Community Development I am proud of our funding commitment to this vital area of Tasmania's fabric. These vital organisations advocate for and support members of our community, ensure voices and views of Tasmanians are heard, provide advice to Government and raise awareness of available government programs and services, especially for our most vulnerable. Collectively, our peak body groups represent the majority of Tasmania's population. Boosting funding to these peak bodies will ensure these key organisations will continue to deliver services and support to those who need it most. We are providing additional funding of over \$1.1 million to peak bodies, including the Youth Network of Tasmania, the Council on the Ageing, Volunteering Tasmania and the Multicultural Council of Tasmania. This is the first increase to core funding for these peak bodies since 2010.

Three new organisations will also be elevated to peak body status for the first time, with Carers Tasmania, the Tasmanian Men's Shed Association and the RSL Tasmania Branch also receiving \$110 000 per annum in core recurrent funding from 2018-19. For the first time, annual indexation of 2.25 per cent will apply to these peak bodies from 2019-20 to ensure this additional funding keeps pace with operational requirements. As well as receiving peak body core funding, Carers Tasmania will also receive \$40 000 over two years towards the I Care resource, providing 10 000 booklets to carers. These booklets will contain health and care related information.

Volunteering Tasmania will also use \$100 000 in project funding per annum over three years toward its innovative new project to safeguard volunteering in Tasmania, with the provision of additional in-kind support of a dedicated project officer located in Communities Tasmania to work with them in partnership, as well as the \$200 000 support over four years announced in the 2017-18 Budget to build an army of volunteers in the event of a natural disaster or emergency, called EV Crew.

In addition to their new core funding, the Tasmanian Men's Shed Association will also receive additional funding of \$375 000 over three years for the Tasmanian Men's Shed Grant Fund, with applications for 2018 now open. Following consultation with the Tasmanian Men's Shed Association, it will increase the maximum grant allowable from \$10 000 to \$20 000. This

recognises that many of the Association's members require more than the previous grant limit to make the capital improvements they need to keep their facilities up-to-date.

The Council on the Ageing, or COTA, will also receive additional funding of \$585 000 over three years to implement initiatives under the Government's Strong, Liveable Communities: Tasmania's Active Ageing Plan 2017-2022. This is a comprehensive whole-of-government strategy for older Tasmanians. We will also provide \$106 000 each year for the next four years to fund Seniors Week.

The Hodgman Liberal Government has also provided increased funding of \$1.8 million for food security in Tasmania, including \$250 000 per annum for three years in core funding to Foodbank. This is in addition to our commitment of \$400 000 over four years provided in the 2017-18 Budget to establish a base in the north-west.

A total of \$700 000 over four years has been allocated to the Loaves and Fishes Tasmania Project, a partnership between the Devonport Chaplaincy, Second Bite, the Devonport Youth Accommodation Facility and the Devonport Homelessness Action Group. This social enterprise is based in Devonport and will see quality donated fresh and surplus food produce up to 12 000 nutritious, ready-to-eat cooked meals to be distributed to Tasmanians doing it tough each week. Initial funding of \$250 000 was provided to the Devonport Chaplaincy in 2017-18 as part of this project and a further \$450 000 over three years is allocated in the 2018-19 Budget to Second Bite.

We are also investing \$25 000 per annum in core funding for Produce to the People over three years, on top of \$100 000 over four years to further develop and maintain their successful Microgreens social enterprise. We have also committed \$180 000 in additional funding over three years for Tasmania's three mobile food van services, including Gran's Van in Devonport, Loui's Van in Hobart and Launceston's Missionbeat to continue their great community service of delivering hot food, warm clothing and blankets to those who are homeless.

There is also continued funding of \$780 000 for the on-island support for refugees program including the Safe Haven Hub, which provides education support and employment pathways for migrants including permanent and temporary refugees. The primary aim of these services is to support positive settlement outcomes for this target group, as well as \$60 000 for Tasmania to host the 2018 Federation of Ethnic Communities Councils of Australia congress through the Multicultural Council of Tasmania. FECCA is the national peak body representing Australians from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and their organisations.

As well, there is \$500 000 for re-setting the relationship with the Tasmanian Aboriginal community so as to achieve greater understanding and respect between Tasmanian Aboriginal people and non-Aboriginal Tasmanians in a way that acknowledges Aboriginal history and culture. This includes funding for more support for Aboriginal women impacted by family violence. I note that there is \$750 000 over the next three years to support a coordinated approach to employment in the State Service for young Tasmanians and Aboriginal people.

Following consultation with Aboriginal people, the State Service Management Office is developing a Tasmanian State Service Aboriginal employment policy which is planned to be released in early 2019. It will focus on providing workplaces that are culturally safe, inclusive and celebrate Aboriginal culture and attracting Aboriginal people to the State Service by providing development and career pathways for Aboriginal employees. This strategy will also focus on how the State Service workforce reflects the community in areas where Aboriginal people frequently

use services such as child and family centres and opportunities to employ Aboriginal people to improve service delivery in these areas. Pathway opportunities into State Service employment are also being explored - such as through scholarships with the University of Tasmania, cadetships and traineeships.

The State Service Management Office is also working with Aboriginal employees within the State Service to facilitate Aboriginal employee gatherings and to ensure we recognise the Aboriginal culture in our workplace, such as through celebrating NAIDOC week, and increasing use of acknowledgement of country. Furthermore, the State Service is also partnering with the Australia and New Zealand School of Government and other jurisdictions to invest in how the public sector can be effective and responsive to the needs of Aboriginal people and communities across the federation.

Since 2014 I have had the privilege to serve as the Minister for Women for the Tasmanian Government. The Hodgman Liberal Government has a vision for a more inclusive Tasmania that empowers and enables women and girls to fully participate in our economic, social, political and community life. I recently launched the Tasmanian Women's Strategy 2018-2021 as a critical step in this process. It encapsulates the measures we need to pursue to help create a more equal society. The 2018-19 Budget is about delivering on our plan to build a better future for women and girls. For example, in regard to health and wellbeing, we acknowledge barriers have held back Tasmanian women and girls from fully participating in sport. This is why we support the development of high quality and well-planned sport and recreation facilities and initiatives.

To break down these barriers the 2018-19 Budget includes investing \$10 million over the next two years to upgrade female sport facilities across the state through our Levelling the Playing Field Grants Program. This is the largest investment per capita in girls' and women's facilities by any state or territory government in Australia. We believe it is a vital step in engaging with local sporting clubs and organisations as well as state sporting organisations to bring our facilities and amenities up to standard.

There is also continued support for grassroots and development pathway opportunities for Tasmanian women and girls through partnerships with the Collingwood Football Club's Magpies Netball team and the Tasmanian-North Melbourne joint venture AFL women's team. I am delighted to see a number of Tasmanian players already in the AFLW, deciding to make the switch and sign on for the North Melbourne-Tasmania AFLW Venture. Brittany Gibson and Daria Bannister have joined local state league recruit, Madison Smith. During the campaign we also pledged \$750 000 over three years to continue our partnership with Netball Tasmania to support the administration and development of grassroots netball, along with the elite development of netball in Tasmania.

Another key pillar of our women's strategy is safety. The Hodgman Liberal Government has made eliminating family violence a top priority, which is why, in this Budget, we are investing an additional \$20.2 million more funding to address this scourge. This includes extending our \$26 million nation-leading Safe Homes, Safe Families, Tasmania's Family Violence Action Plan with a further \$6 million per annum provided from 2019-20 to implement the Family Violence Action Plan Stage 2, along with \$1.5 million additional funding for the Safe At Home service to address increased demand following the release of Safe Homes, Safe Families.

Planning for a new women's and children's crisis shelter in the south has now commenced with associated mapping of the need for family-style crisis accommodation in the north and north-west. There is \$200 000 to comprehensively research and develop a whole-of-government action plan

against sexual violence, which will include a review of multidisciplinary models operating across Australia and provide recommendations regarding the best approach for Tasmania. As well, there is \$450 000 over three years for the Project O, a family violence primary prevention project, to help drive generational and attitude change by backing rural young women to become change-makers in their community on the north-west coast.

All of this new investment will ensure that we continue to offer the greatest protection possible for Tasmanian families at risk. We have also already commenced a comprehensive cross-agency evaluation of the Family Violence Action Plan in order to inform the next stages, which includes public consultation. Our new action plan will commence in July 2019 with the precise nature of the programs and initiatives in the second stage of Tasmania's Family Violence Action Plan to be determined by the evaluation underway.

Additionally, our commitment of \$20.2 million funding in this year's Budget provides certainty to partner organisations, agencies and to the broader community of our Government's unwavering commitment to continuing our efforts to eliminate family violence.

The Hodgman Government is also focused on increasing women's financial security, leadership and participation. This includes delivering our financial security for women action plan later this year. This was recently kick-started by the Tasmanian Women's Council.

We are increasing the number of women and girls in science, technology, engineering, mathematics - the STEM areas - and medicine. In this year's Budget there is \$75 000 for a workforce development plan with a focus on encouraging more women to work in the information technology sector.

We are supporting Tasmanian Women in Agriculture to connect, support and celebrate rural women. Over its first four-year term the Hodgman Liberal Government provided new funding of \$80 000 to Tasmanian Women in Agriculture. As part of our Taking Agriculture to the Next Level policy, we are increasing our support to \$120 000 over the next four years. This reflects our confidence in the demonstrated ability of Tasmanian women in agriculture to support and empower more rural women to take on leadership roles in Tasmania's primary industries by providing opportunities to network and support each other and by empowering them to realise their full potential. It is estimated that women produce at least 49 per cent of rural farm income in Australia. It is exciting to see Tasmanian Women in Agriculture encouraging members to expand their skills and continue to develop leadership capacity.

We know there is more work to do. The Hodgman Liberal Government will continue to work to reduce economic disadvantage, to enhance economic growth and to increase the wellbeing of Tasmanian women, girls and their families.

In Sport and Recreation there are many funding commitments to a wide range of sports, community organisations, infrastructure and initiatives. This includes our commitment of \$500 000 over two years to Basketball Tasmania to deliver school basketball clinics across the state in partnership with clubs in the South East Australian Basketball League, such as the Hobart Chargers, Launceston Tornadoes and North-West Thunder.

In cricket we are investing \$200 000 to help Tasmania secure two additional games in the Big Bash League to be played in Launceston and on the north-west coast, subject to the expected expansion of the Men's BBL in 2018-19. We are providing additional grant funding of \$240 000

in 2018-19 to Cricket Tasmania for the development of cricket across all levels of the game. This funding especially recognises the new 'two teams, one club' culture that Cricket Tasmania is building, with the Tasmanian women's team coming under the Tigers branding and promotion, which we 100 per cent support and congratulate them for instituting.

Cricket Tasmania CEO Nick Cummins has welcomed this announcement as well as the BBL and more female-friendly facilities funding. In regard to the \$240 000 investment, he called it:

... an important step towards achieving Cricket Tasmania's vision of offering the best female cricket program in Australia.

... this investment recognises the importance that women's cricket plays in our community.

Erin Fazackerley, Tasmanian Tiger and Hobart Hurricanes all-rounder, described how the Government's investment in a female program shows great confidence and trust in the players and a strong commitment to the growth of cricket as a sport for all.

Some of other major infrastructure commitments we are delivering on in this Budget is funding of \$3 million to construct a hydrotherapy pool at the Doone Kennedy Hobart Aquatic Centre. There is funding of \$10 million over three years for consultation, planning, design and construction of a new multipurpose indoor sports facilities in Glenorchy. The new complex will provide fit-for-purpose, multiuse courts and sports amenities that meet current and future demands of community and elite sports participants. The multisport facility will cater for a wide variety of sports to be determined by extensive community consultation and they include basketball, volleyball, netball, squash, table tennis, futsal, badminton, dance, martial arts, roller derby, gymnastics and other community events.

For traditional football followers in Tasmania, the home of football will always be the North Hobart Oval and \$300 000 in this 2018-19 Budget will support planning for structure upgrades at the oval.

For tennis, we have made a commitment to establish a facility capable of hosting high-level tennis in the north of the state, with \$2 million towards the \$4 million new facility at the Launceston Regional Tennis Centre.

The Government will also provide \$15 000 towards the Australian Veterans Golf Championships which the Tasmanian Veterans Golfers Union will host in 2019 in Launceston.

In regard to both Sport and Recreation and disability, the 2018-19 Budget contains funding of \$150 000 over three years to Paraquad to support participation in sports for Tasmanians with physical disability.

Surf Lifesaving Tasmania is a valued member of our community in keeping us safe on our gorgeous beaches and coastline. The 2018-19 Budget commits \$1.8 million towards this vital service to increase beach patrols, support surf rescue and to educate the public on water safety. In addition, we are investing \$250 000 into vital infrastructure upgrades at Carlton Park Surf Lifesaving Club, one of the state's most frequented surf beaches, which includes the addition of disability access and a lifesaving patrol tower.



Another facet of Tasmania's life that has become an institution is the Tasmanian Christmas carnival series. Funding of \$600 000 over three years is included in the state Budget for the Sports Carnivals Association of Tasmania to promote the series and to support the operation of these carnivals.

As a government, we are making these investments because we strongly believe playing sport is key to establishing lifelong healthy habits. Sport has a range of individual and social benefits, including improving physical and mental health, fostering social skills and developing teamwork and leadership skills. I note the *Examiner* on 16 June had the headline 'Focus on the Community' with Dorset mayor Greg Howard quoted as saying:

Investment in regional community projects was a major win in this year's state Budget.

While it may only be a small piece of a multibillion-dollar budget pie, Cr Howard said it was 'very important' for the community.

We want to do whatever we can to ensure more Tasmanians have the opportunity to play sport and take part in recreational activities to reach our goal to make Tasmania the healthiest state in Australia by 2025 and to reduce the rate of obesity to below the national average in the same time frame. As a government we are acutely aware that grassroots sporting organisations are at the very heart of their communities and are integral to achieving these goals. We are also very much aware that every dollar counts for community sports organisations, but furthermore that they rely heavily on their state supporting organisations for administrative and compliance support. Therefore the Sport and Recreation state grants program offers financial assistance to state sporting organisations, state disability sporting organisations, state sector service providers and state active recreation providers to administer, develop and promote this sport-active recreational service in Tasmania.

I am delighted that there will be an additional \$300 000 per annum for the state grants program, which guarantees that there will be a total of \$1.15 million available to organisations that need this extra assistance. We are also funding \$3 million for our Ticket to Play initiative. Numerous studies have found that cost is one of the main barriers to children participating in organised sport, with some club memberships costing up to \$250. That is why during the election campaign we committed to establish Ticket to Play, Tasmania's first sports voucher system for young Tasmanians. Vouchers worth up to \$100 towards the cost of sporting club memberships will be available to Tasmania's students aged five to 17 whose parents or guardian hold a Centrelink health care card or pensioner concession card. Around 30 000 disadvantaged Tasmanian children will be eligible for a sports voucher under Ticket to Play, which will enable them to have a great opportunity to participate in organised sport, to socialise, to be healthy and, most importantly, to have fun.

I also note that the *Mercury* has reported how sporting clubs have welcomed this initiative because it has proven to be effective in reaching children who otherwise would not be able to take part in sport, and as Bob Gregory from Hockey Tasmania stated:

It will enable hockey to reach children we traditionally haven't been able to reach because of the cost. Without doubt this will enable the number of kids playing sport to grow, which is good for kids.

Netball Tasmania CEO Aaron Pidgeon said the funding would help children begin what would hopefully be a long involvement in sport, and Soccer Tasmania's Bob Gordon said that the initiative was a great way to improve the opportunities for young people to get into sport.

I am also delighted that my colleague, the Minister for Health, will in the 2018-19 Budget provide \$870 000 over two years to the Alcohol and Drug Foundation to expand the Good Sports program. This program provides community sporting club volunteers with the resources, training and guidance they need to build a healthy club environment for all Tasmanians, especially children and young people. This program was originally designed as an alcohol management program, a way to change the drinking culture in clubs, and was recently expanded to include components focusing on mental health and nutrition as well as information on other legal and illegal drugs.

As the Premier said on the weekend, we won the state election by campaigning strongly on our record and on the strength of our economy. We said we would fix the budget and we did. We said we would kick-start the economy and we have. Our party well understands that a strong economy is critical to our future prosperity. That is the reason we are now able, in this Budget, to invest more into our schools, our hospitals and the infrastructure our growing state needs, because a strong economy is critical for a brighter future. It is the driving force behind Tasmania's resurgence and one of the key reasons we won a second term of government.

It is central to our plan to now take Tasmania to the next level. For example, in Health there are now 300 more nurses, doctors and allied health professionals in the public health system than when we came to government four years ago, and recurrent annual spending in Health is \$341 million per year more than when it was when we came to government. In both the Budget and the forward Estimates, the Government will invest a record \$7.6 billion into Health, with an extra \$757 million invested over the next six years.

Education is key to building Tasmania's future, which is why we have committed an additional record \$324 million over six years to take education to the next level, with an extra 358 more staff to be employed in our schools and all high schools will be extended to year 12, with more investment into early learning. The first tranche of this commitment is delivered in the 2018-19 state Budget, with a total of \$6.75 billion across the forward Estimates in Education and Training, including \$192.2 million in schools and TasTAFE infrastructure projects over the next four years.

The Hodgman Liberal Government's number-one priority is jobs and we are delivering on our commitment with a record \$2.6 billion in job-creating infrastructure projects, including new schools, hospital redevelopments and road upgrades. We want to continue building a stronger economy that everyone can benefit from. The 2018-19 Budget builds on initiatives and incentives to attract and promote further investment in Tasmania and ensure Tasmanian businesses can employ more Tasmanians. This includes providing \$7.5 million over three years in new funding for targeted small business grants and extending the enormously popular payroll tax rebate system for apprentices and trainees to 2021.

We are introducing a payroll tax cut for businesses. Businesses currently pay 6.1 per cent payroll tax on all wages over \$1.25 million. We will introduce a new, lower tax rate of 4 per cent of payrolls between \$1.25 million and \$2 million and payroll tax relief of up to three years for any business that relocates to Tasmania and establishes its operations in a regional area.

There are a number of other measures in the Budget that will help generate even more economic activity and help Tasmanians around the state to find work and have a brighter future. We also

have a range of sector-specific policies that will reduce red tape and foster business investment including agriculture, small business, hospitality, tourism, seafood and information technology.

We have made the hard decisions, we have fixed the budget mess we were left with five years ago and we are now able to invest the dividends of all that hard work. Tasmania is now a place of endless possibilities only limited by our imagination, outlook, attitude and our determination to succeed. Working alongside our vital community organisations, we will continue to help look after those who are unable to look after themselves. We will support those who need it and we will encourage and applaud the success of those who achieve it. Tasmania's best days are ahead of us and it is my pleasure to serve in the Hodgman Liberal Government as we work together to build Tasmania's future and to take Tasmania to the next level.

[12.12 p.m.]

**Ms O'CONNOR** (Denison - Leader of the Greens) - Madam Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to present the Tasmanian Greens' fully costed alternative budget on behalf of Dr Woodruff, our team and the Tasmanian Greens. I am happy to table this document at the end of my contribution.

A state budget is about so much more than the bottom line. It is a statement of values that shapes the direction of a place and its people over the term of a government and beyond. The Greens unashamedly place a higher value on this island and its people than we do on roads, bridges and corporate welfare.

In a twenty-first century budget, we must place the highest possible value on delivering a safe climate for our children and grandchildren. Action on climate is at the heart of the Greens' 2018-19 alternative budget. The future health and prosperity of our island and its people requires a sustained, evidence-based investment in doing all we can to reduce our carbon emissions and adapt to the changing climate. On this critical measure, we deliver. A Greens' budget prioritises investment in community and conservation. It recognises the jobs of the future are dependent on a healthy environment and protecting Tasmania's clean, green, wilderness brand.

Our alternative budget is serious about land use planning. For the good of us all today and in the future, planning must prioritise environmental protection, public participation and it must value our shared public assets. It is past time to reset the balance, away from taxpayer-enabled generosity to corporations, private developers and foreign interests and towards the public good of Tasmanians.

The Greens recognise having a place to call home is a fundamental human right currently denied to a growing number of people. Rather than splash tens of millions of dollars into public funding for a cable car at Cradle Mountain and commercial developments in the wilderness, the Greens would invest in community and preventative health, quality public education and child safety. We would increase the supply of secure, affordable, energy-efficient housing.

The booming visitor economy is not trickling down to benefit everyone. It is having a heavy impact on our parks and regional areas. We need to reframe the equation and require international travellers to chip in for the privilege of spending time on our beautiful island. This would mean having more money to put into quality health and community services that Tasmanians rely on.

We place the highest value on protecting democratic institutions and the human rights of all citizens in a free and equal society. We believe these are values all fair-minded Tasmanians share.

We are proud to present this fully costed alternative budget and, although we only have a small team, I am proud of its contents and the vision it sets out for Tasmania well into the twenty-first century.

We will re-establish the climate change ministry with extra staffing. We will fund a climate-ready Tasmania plan for the planning and implementation of a wide range of climate measures, including actions to mitigate and adapt to a changing climate. We will ensure the Department of State Growth undertakes a comprehensive audit of the state's transport and infrastructure assets to ensure they are climate-ready and resilient for the future. We will support our primary producers and farmers to develop a statewide carbon farming plan with key sectors and this would be delivered through the climate office. We will invest \$10 million into restoring landscapes degraded by the resource extractive industries of the past. We know this will create green jobs. To fund our climate initiatives we will wind up Forestry Tasmania, end government native forest logging programs and reduce funding to the forest policy and reform output, saving \$105 million over the forward Estimates.

To ensure our cities, towns and our economy are ready for the future - a clean energy, zero-carbon future - we will prioritise investment in pedestrian and cycling infrastructure, allocating \$30 million over the forward Estimates. We will bring forward work on the Hobart light rail. We will ensure tertiary students are given free travel to and from their learning. We will invest \$1 million into a grant program for commercial installation of electric vehicle charging stations and \$500 000 a year towards home charging stations. We will ensure Metro Tasmania modernises by funding an electric bus fleet pathway. We will restart the hugely successful cost of living and climate measure undertaken by the Labor-Greens government to deliver free energy efficiency upgrades to low income households, community groups and small businesses, investing \$12 million over the forward Estimates. This critical program brings down household energy costs over a sustained period of time. It is not a one-off. It makes for healthier households and it delivers on our obligation under the Paris Agreement to reduce our carbon emissions.

We believe people who buy Hummers and V8s should pay for the high emissions their vehicles generate. In a staged manner, we would adjust vehicle registration fees and levies to take into account vehicle emissions and savings from not funding the V8 Supercars. We believe government must show leadership and purchase electric vehicles through its procurement programs in order to reseed the transport fleet.

There is no question that this state Budget delivered by the Liberals prioritises roads and building bridges over people. It fails to invest what is desperately needed in increasing the supply of secure, affordable and energy efficient housing. We will invest an extra \$100 million over the forward Estimates to increase the supply of affordable housing, so Tasmanians are not sleeping at the Domain, at the Showgrounds or in cars because they cannot find or afford a home. We will, because it is necessary, proceed to regulate short-stay accommodation to ensure houses that would make homes for people are not going onto the short-stay market.

It is essential we protect the rights of tenants. There are people living in rental properties right now who live in fear of losing their house because of the move to short-stay accommodation. Their rents are increasing and they are under significant housing stress. The Residential Tenancy Act as it currently stands provides inadequate protections for the rights of tenants and prioritises the rights of landlords over people in rental properties. The balance must be reset. In order to fund some of these initiatives, we will institute a vacant residence tax so that investors who leave their properties vacant, properties that would otherwise make rental homes, have to pay a premium for doing that.

The future of our children and young people is the future of this island. They are our future. We recognise that the child safety system has been chronically underfunded and under-resourced for far too long. As a result of that failure of priorities and government policy, there are children at risk who are placed further at risk because of the failure to prioritise their wellbeing and invest in child safety officers. We will invest \$16.28 million over the forward Estimates to recruit 50 new child safety officers and \$2.72 million over the four years to recruit 10 administrative officers in Child Safety Services. The budget allocation made to increase of the out-of-home care age limit to 21 is inadequate, therefore we will properly fund an increase in the age limit from 18 to 21 years to ensure those young people who are the responsibility of the state have their support and resource needs met to ensure they have the best possible chance of a successful life.

We also recognise there are parents who lose their children for a range of reasons who have no support within the system in Tasmania. There are parents who are highly distressed and confused because they appear to have no rights and they have no support. If we are serious about reuniting families, because we know that children placed in out-of-home care very often want to be with their families, we need to provide support to parents who find themselves in the child safety system because of their own failings as a parent or the neglect of their children. We will fund advice and advocacy services to support parents in the child safety system over the forward Estimates, investing nearly \$1 million.

With an increasing number of government services outsourced to the community sector, it is critical we can be sure there is quality in the community sector, and if people are accessing government-funded services through the community sector they need to be able to have answers provided about the quality of that service. There must be a community services commissioner in Tasmania in order to improve the system and make sure it is the best it can be in delivering services to people who need it. We will fund a community services commission with \$4.2 million over the forward Estimates.

Tasmania's national parks and our Wilderness World Heritage Area are precious beyond measure. They are integral to our sense of identity as Tasmanians. Yet under the Liberals in government they are seen merely as a cash cow. It is Liberal policy to unleash commercial development in the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area and other national parks, which runs an enormous risk of killing the goose that laid the golden egg. We believe our parks need significantly more investment and therefore we will fund an additional 15 Parks rangers and 15 additional field officers as well as an additional recurrent funding into Parks. We will make sure any commercial activities within our Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area and our protected areas come under a proper, statutory planning process which puts public participation and the protection of natural cultural values front and centre. We will fund a new legislative and public planning assessment process for all commercial activities in parks and it will make sure that the people of Tasmania are given a voice which right now they are denied.

We will also establish a stand-alone department of the environment and an independent Environment Protection Authority that Tasmanians can trust to be making good decisions that places the protection of Tasmania's marine and terrestrial environments as an absolute priority. At the moment, for better or worse there is a view developing in the community that the state's EPA has been politicised and is prioritising the needs of industry over the environment. We need to reset the balance.

We also need to better understand the state of our environment in Tasmania. The State of the Environment Report was a very significant and important piece of work that used to be undertaken

by the Tasmanian government and it has not been in recent years. We will reinstitute the State of the Environment Report. We will also make sure that the Threatened Species Unit in the Department of Environment is adequately funded so it can protect our unique, iconic - found nowhere else in the world - threatened, endangered and critically endangered species such as the giant wedge-tailed eagle, the freshwater crayfish, the spotted pardalote and all those extraordinary Tasmanian animals we should be so proud to share this island with but which have been neglected and under-prioritised.

Tasmania's clean, green brand is the foundation of all future prosperity. It drives growth in the agricultural sector and in the tourism sector. It is where the jobs of the future are wholly dependent. There has been a substantial underinvestment in protecting Tasmania's biosecurity over the term of the past government and as a result of that we have seen a blueberry rust outbreak which was not adequately dealt with, a fruit fly outbreak which is still persisting, and only this week we have seen that as a result of the flooding, the first-ever specimens of the invasive soft-shell clam were found in the Prosser River. We are told in a statement by the minister responsible for biosecurity, Ms Courtney, that a specimen was apparently found in the same area in 2013. It begs the question: what happened in the five years between when the first specimen of this invasive species was found and now? It seems on the evidence that in that period of time that invasive species was able to gain a foothold in the Prosser River at least which for our aquaculture industry will undoubtedly set off alarm bells.

Our marine environment is near pristine, but our waters are warming and we do not fully understand the health of our marine environment. We have failed to adequately protect the marine environment. The Liberals in government have done no work on bioregional science. They have not progressed the marine protected areas strategy and this is essential if we are to have healthy marine environments in the future that are resilient to a changing climate, warming waters and acidification and if we are to have the best chance of providing fish for the future, we need to better protect Tasmania's marine environment. It was not that long ago that government in Tasmania recognised the need for marine protected areas and a number of those would be no-take marine protected areas.

In places like New Zealand where they have been on this journey, politics initially created a divisive debate. Fishermen in New Zealand saw the establishment of no-take marine protected areas as a threat to them. The Government established no-take marine protected areas and the greatest advocate of MPAs in New Zealand today are recreational and commercial fishermen. They recognise that if you protect significant parts of the marine environment, you are protecting fish nurseries. You are ensuring to the greatest extent possible, healthy marine ecosystems. For anyone who doubts the value of establishing no-take boundaries around significant marine protected areas, and if they feel like scuba diving, go down to Crayfish Point. You will see there is almost a demarcation under the water between the no-take area and where recreational fishing is allowed. In the no-take area at Crayfish Point there is a robust and quite healthy marine ecology.

We must be aiming as a state to protect our marine environment; not exploit it for private profit, not unleash a rapacious industrial fish farming industry on Storm Bay, but listen to the science and do this cautiously and prioritise the health of the marine environment over the profits of private companies.

Our planning system does not work for this place or its people. It has been written by and for developers. We see that now with the application that is before the Glamorgan Spring Bay Council on the propose Cambria Green development on the east coast of Tasmania. We need a

comprehensive suite of state policies to guide all future land use planning in Tasmania. We need to make sure that our independent planning bodies are appropriately funded. If the Tasmanian people have an issue with a decision made by a planning authority, if they are concerned that proposed development where they live will affect their way of life, we need to ensure that they can receive legal advice and support. Under the Liberals in government, the Environmental Defenders Office has lost its funding. The likes of Dr Woodruff and me, and other donors, are what keeps the Environmental Defenders Office going by making regular donations. It is not good enough.

They do outstanding work. I was reminded again of how critical the work of the Environmental Defenders Office is at the statewide meetings we had in Hobart, Launceston and Burnie on the proposals to develop inside the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area and other national parks. These were information sessions to which recreational enjoyers of the Tasmanian wilderness World Heritage Area and other protected areas came to better understand the threats to places they love and the wilderness values of places that they love. The Environmental Defenders Office is a critical part of a fair and just planning system.

If Mr Gutwein thought about this rationally he would understand that funding the Environmental Defenders Office is a saving because there will be times when communities or individuals will go to the EDO with a concern and because they have been provided with good advice, it may prevent a matter from going further in the planning system. The Environmental Defenders Office ensures to the best capacity possible, in an environment where they have been defunded and the planning system works against people, that the Tasmanian people can have a measure of representation in land use planning decisions.

Under this Government, we have seen the unprecedented corporatisation of public assets: commercial exploitation; exclusive access to the Tasmanian wilderness World Heritage Area; the flogging of the Treasury building; and the long-term leasing and sale of Crown land. The Crown Lands Act of Tasmania does not work to protect the public interest. It gives the minister of the day far too much power to hand over, with no public process, public assets. We will fund a review and reform of the Crown Lands Act to ensure that the public good is prioritised over private profiteering and secret deals being done through the Office of the Coordinator-General. We will discontinue funding for the Office of the Coordinator-General, because as we have long said, it is a recipe for corruption. Private developers are given the red carpet treatment. There is no public scrutiny, no transparency and no opportunity for the people of Tasmania to find out what of their assets are being traded in this secretive process where the Greens are denied information on behalf of people who are concerned under commercial-in-confidence.

It is no longer acceptable - not that it ever was - for an arm of government, paid for by the taxpayers, to be hawking public treasures and cosyng along developers, like Cambria Green Tourism and Agricultural Proprietary Limited, as they trade in public assets.

Planning for the future must be at the heart of good government decision-making. One of the criticisms of this Liberal budget is that it is all short term-ism. There is no long term vision for Tasmania. There is no apparent commitment to protecting the clean green wilderness brand. We need to plan better for a growing population, increase in visitor numbers, and increased pressure on our land and our water. We need to establish a department of state planning which includes an office of the chief engineer, state architect and state demographer.

Our children are entitled to the best quality public education. While we recognise that there is a significant extra allocation in this year's Budget towards public education, it under-invests in

support staff we know schools and children need - social workers, speech therapists, psychologists and extra administrative support.

We prioritise the quality public education of Tasmania's children and young people, investing \$27.8 million over the forward Estimates into more support staff, teachers' assistants, social workers, speech pathologists, school psychologists and lab technicians. We will fund staff to ensure that the education system recognises that children can come to school and be victims of trauma. That trauma in their lives will affect their learning, their training, their skills development, their mental health and wellbeing and all their future life prospects. We must have a school system that applies trauma-informed teaching. We prioritise that in our alternative budget.

We also recognise that critical social infrastructure can turn around socio-economic disadvantage within a generation. One of the best initiatives of the previous Labor government were the Child and Family Centres across Tasmania. We do not have anywhere near enough Child and Family Centres in our community. They are catalytically positive. For anyone who has been to a Child and Family Centre - I am sure everyone here has - they are profoundly important spaces for children and their parents to be together, to read books, to learn about healthy eating and healthy recreation. We will fund critical social infrastructure: 11 new Child and Family Centres at a cost of \$45 million over the next four years.

The rights of Tasmanians are inadequately protected under the law as it is. There is no fundamental protection for the human rights of Tasmanians from the excesses of government and corporations. We heed the calls for a human rights act for Tasmania. It is a longstanding Greens policy and a critical part of ensuring we have a just society. We have allocated \$3.9 million over four years to establish a human rights commission and a human rights unit in the Department of Justice and roll out an education program that coincides with the implementation of the Human Rights Act. We will make sure that there is an investment in our integrity bodies, in the Office of the Ombudsman, the Health Complaints Commission and the Integrity Commission. We will make sure that the cuts to Legal Aid that are embedded in this Budget are reversed.

We recognise that public sector workers in Tasmania are every day delivering quality public services to the people of Tasmania in health, education, family support and community services, but this Government has locked them in to a 2 per cent wage cap, which is not only unjustified but unfair and poor economics. We have made a provisional allocation in our alternative budget based on the need for good-faith negotiations with public sector unions, which this Government and this Treasurer are refusing to undertake. That sends a very strong message to public sector workers in Tasmania that the Liberals in government do not value their work and are not prepared to enter into good-faith negotiations. It is simply unjustifiable when times are good not to make sure that our public servants are well paid.

**Time expired.**

**Ms O'CONNOR** (Denison - Leader of the Greens) - Madam Speaker, I seek leave of the House to table our alternative budget.

**Leave granted.**

[12.42 p.m.]

**Mr FERGUSON** (Bass - Minister for Health) - Madam Speaker, I warmly welcome this opportunity to speak on the 2018-19 Budget that has been brought down by the Hodgman Liberal



majority Government, the fifth budget delivered by our Government. As has been very clearly said and supported by stakeholders, this Budget will take Tasmania to the next level. We have seen our state progress but we want to go to the next level. This is a budget which builds on the hard work of this Government over four years of governing and doing our best, ensuring that our interest is the Tasmanian people's interest. It provides a very clear vision which is taking measures to prepare Tasmania for a brighter future, exactly as we promised.

This Budget fulfils our election commitments and demonstrates the Government's economic management credentials, which are widely applauded. I congratulate all my colleagues for their contribution to this Budget, especially the Treasurer and the Premier who take responsibility for the overarching framing.

I am also very pleased this Budget does not ignore the north of the state and works towards significantly improving the economic outcomes in my beloved electorate of Bass. I believe it is the best electorate in Australia.

As at May 2018 there are now 248 500 people in Tasmania in work, up 13 400 since the 2014 election. That is a wonderful, positive development for our state. Think of the betterment of families in our community who are able to find work and provide for their families. In Launceston and in the north-east, as at April of this year there are 3300 more people employed than in the last year of the Labor-Greens minority government, which was the object of ridicule for what it had done to our state, our families, our economy, our health system and our education system. In the year to April 2018 the average unemployment rate was 5.8 per cent, down from 7 per cent in the previous year. We have seen improvements and we want to continue to see those improvements in the future. We will do that by maintaining our strong economic management, bring and inspire more confidence in the community, particularly in the business community and continue to back those areas where Tasmanians want to see improved health outcomes, improved educational opportunities and more job opportunities as well.

I quote the Mayor of Launceston, who recently stated in the *Examiner*:

Northern Tasmania is taking great strides at the moment and there's a lot of positivity out there; these budget commitments are only going to add to the sense that Launceston is on the move and continue the boom that's underway in the city.

I grew up in Launceston and am very proud I was born in the beautiful city of Burnie. That is where my grandparents started their families and I am a proud coaster. Mr Brooks, I hope I am allowed to say that. I grew up in Launceston and it makes up nearly all my memories as a child and as an adult. I am happy and grateful that I have never seen Launceston going as well as it is going at this time. There is a sense of confidence and optimism in the air I cannot previously recall. Yes, I am gen Xer and grew up in a family who was paying 17.5 per cent interest on our family home, a mum and a dad who were working very hard to put food on the table and sacrificially went without for the benefit of my siblings and I, their children.

When I was in grade 10 in 1989, I sat on the family phone, after begging my parents to let me use the phone - phone calls were expensive back then - and I went through the Yellow Pages looking for a job. I wanted a part-time job. I made dozens of harassing phone calls to local businesses until Dial-a-Dinos gave me a start. Times were very different then and now businesses are saying to me they need more people to work for them and at times they find it very difficult to find them. I do not want to oversimplify this because I know life is not this simple, but there have been previous

times where my family and I were very familiar with where we had people looking for jobs. Today it has turned around. We know there is more work to do in unemployment and under-employment, but today we have jobs looking for people. It is a wonderful turnaround.

I am doing the job of Health minister and it is not easy. People like to sometimes present it as just a job and just get on with it, and we do, but it is a tough job and full of challenge. It is also rich with opportunity and I am delighted to continue to serve. There are massive highlights in this Budget for northern Tasmania in Health, with funding of \$87.3 million being provided over six years for a major redevelopment and expansion of our LGH, including improvements across medical, surgical, maternity, obstetric, paediatric and mental health units, with an additional \$5 million for more car parking, the message of need coming from the local community.

The program of works includes refurbishment of existing wards, more single rooms, which we know doctors and nurses are calling for, the expansion of existing blocks so we can have more beds, and one that is so close to my heart, the expansion of ward 4K, our children's ward, renovating it and providing for the first time ever adolescent mental health beds.

**Dr Woodruff** - It is great.

**Mr FERGUSON** - It is great, and I think about the families who will benefit from that in the future. I have visited there as a visitor. I have visited children needing mental health care and they are accommodated in the paediatric ward in rooms that are not designed for the care they need. Better than that, we are turning the kid's ward and that building that extends into the car park into not just a kids ward but it will become our women's and children's precinct, again fit for purpose and custom designed for women and children in a contemporary model of care.

This redevelopment will commence in 2018-19 and be completed in 2024. There is much work to do. There is the master plan for the whole site, I am excited about that, including a new 32-bed ward in the fullness of time because we recognise there is increasing demand for health.

We will never forget Flinders Island. It is like the pearl of the electorate, a wonderful community, a beautiful place and spirited people. A total of \$500 000 is in our Budget to provide better accommodation for health professionals on Flinders Island.

All of this is possible because of the management. You cannot do any of these things if the Budget has not been sorted out and makes it possible, and that is what has happened, much to the derision of members opposite, who bemoan the realities of government and sorting out of the budget. I have listened to members opposite during this debate. The Leader of the Opposition is whingeing that the Government is spending too much, making puerile arguments around deficits and debt and, on the other hand, telling us we should be spending a lot more.

We are spending more. In Health, we are spending a lot more than Labor promised. So we should, because we have a well-planned policy. This will take a lot of work to implement and I hope we will have the support of the whole parliament in implementing our health plan that Tasmanians voted for. There will be issues along the way that we need work through. An expansion of this kind is a big piece of work. We are grateful for the support we received for our health policy at the election. It is being delivered exactly as we said it would be and there should not be any errant criticism that our policy, as with Labor's version one of their health policy, is a six-year plan. It is longer than an election cycle. We said we needed certainty and we are delivering it. As members in this House know, the Budget brought down represents a four-year period. Any

suggestion money is not being delivered as promised is complete nonsense and it should not be said by any member of this House with any self-respect.

A brief word on the alternative. First, there is no alternative other than the one Ms O'Connor brought to our House. There is no alternative from the Opposition. There is no alternative to the Government's plan. The only thing I can look to is the election health policy from the Labor Party, which was a shameful document. It had to be rewritten six times for different audiences, the goalposts moving all the time. They were stunned that our health policy, which was announced later than theirs, was much more generous for Health. Labor tried to shift the goalposts, telling Tasmanians it was no longer a six-year plan; it was only a three-, a four- or a five-year plan. It kept shifting.

Labor's six-year sham was \$200 million less than ours and their policy admitted they planned to spend less in the last year than they did in the first. As the Treasurer correctly points out, that means cuts. It makes no sense. Labor's alternative is no longer relevant. We understand the pressures in Health. Nobody is glib about it. The Labor Party try politicking on it every single day. I respect that the Labor Party should be campaigning on issues but the politicking has been appalling, with the advertisements Labor ran with unflattering photos of the Premier, challenging the person in their lounge room that they or one of their loved ones could be the next one to die. That is what Labor did and that was the positive campaign Labor said they were going to bring Tasmanians. I have swept that aside now because Labor's health policy was a dog's breakfast. The Leader of the Opposition has delivered her alternative, which does not present a credible alternative to our Budget, so we have to assert that this Parliament supports what the Government is doing in Health.

The Royal Hobart Hospital is not only Hobart's hospital. It is everyone's hospital. We should all value it and we should all be thrilled that the \$689 million redevelopment remains on track. I know, Madam Speaker, from working with you in your previous role as Mayor, the great partnership we had with Hobart City Council. It has been very positive. It has enabled us to do the job. It is on track for practical completion in mid-2019. It is a key part of our Health infrastructure and it supports people in Launceston, in Burnie and on King Island. There are times when our families require our highest level tertiary training hospital.

For mental health, the next four years includes 25 more mental health beds and specialist in-patient child and adolescent mental health, for the first time. Other key alcohol and drug initiatives in this Budget include almost \$10 million over, including funding for 30 new residential rehabilitation beds statewide and more funding to guarantee those 12 extra rehabilitation beds we established in Ulverstone during our first term.

There is money my colleague, the minister for Sport, Jacquie Petrusma has talked about, for the Good Sports Program. This is about supporting club volunteers with the resources, training and guidance they need to build a healthy club environment. We know that government policies are great, government initiatives are terrific, but if you really want to cut through to effectiveness and change in the community you have to work with the grassroots. That is what that is about.

I am thrilled to be supporting Pathways Tasmania with their wonderful work. They have been doing it through a drug rehabilitation program, mainly for men up until now. They want to branch out and provide a service specifically for women looking to recover and rehabilitate from a drug dependency lifestyle.

The Government is also committed to investing in our ambulance service by recruiting more paramedics and investing in more support staff. This includes additional funding of \$14.9 million for 42 more paramedics. We are putting extra crews in each of our city zones and it is time for paramedics in regional areas. We want to reduce overtime, improve responsiveness and reduce fatigue in those regional areas. That is about providing more coverage in those communities, supporting our statewide community, including our wonderful volunteer ambulance officers. We should all be grateful for those people and what they do in our community, and I know we all are.

Secondary triage is funded, with \$8 million over four years to fully roll out secondary triage. I am confident everybody here is in support. It has been important, with the growing number of 000 calls Ambulance Tasmania receives every year, that they be able to respond to those in the most practical and safe way possible. Unfortunately, there are calls that are not at all life threatening. As the Chief Executive of Ambulance Tasmania said, 'That does not mean that whilst they do not have an emergency need they do have a health care need.'. In respecting that, we want to make sure that through good, effective secondary triage that even those calls are supported and given advice as to the best solution. My advice is that when it is fully operational it will assess around 2000 calls per year. It has the potential to divert up to 16 000 patients to alternative service providers other than our lifesaving, on-the-road paramedics and in-the-air paramedics.

I mentioned the Community Rapid Response Service, previously known as Hospital in the Home before it was cut. We have re-established that. It is going well. Doctors love it, nurses love it and I know patients in our community of Launceston love it. We developed it as a pilot and when we saw it was working we kept it going in the previous term. During the election campaign we made the further commitment that it has been so valuable for the north, the north-west and the south should also receive it. That is exactly what is happening.

We have also provided additional funding in preventative health, which some individuals have chosen to ignore or gloss over. There is a lot of money there for support of our Healthy Tasmania policy on top of the run-on funding not in the future forward Estimates. We have provided additional funding for the Health fund so we can support identified health needs in the community.

I am pleased to advise the extra support we are giving to Epilepsy Tasmania - \$880 000. That is about supporting the availability of support services, including GP liaison and hospital avoidance, increasing education and awareness of epilepsy, including through the Smart Schools Program, and boosting peer and family carer support.

One close to my heart, my beautiful Nanna died of a stroke in 1984 when I was 10. I treasured those 10 years of love between us. It is close to my heart. We are providing \$440 000 to the Stroke Foundation over two years to enable health support on a regional basis. People in our capital cities do not take things for granted but they do have a higher level of service access than people outside. The Stroke Foundation has said -

'Delivery of the State Government's 'better' health plan will improve access to stroke treatment and support in Tasmania, so more patients survive, avoid disability and recover,' Ms McGowan said.

'Investment in improved infrastructure, emergency response, health professional capacity and management of chronic disease will deliver results. This Budget boost will improve health outcomes for stroke patients across the care continuum.'

Regional and rural communities are also allocated record funding in this Budget. That includes \$15 million to upgrade -

**Sitting suspended from 1 p.m. to 2.30 p.m.**

## **CONSOLIDATED FUND APPROPRIATION BILL (No. 1) 2018 (No. 16)**

### **Second Reading**

**Resumed from above.**

[2.30 p.m.]

**Mr FERGUSON** (Bass - Minister for Health) - Madam Speaker, before lunch I was talking about our budget for Health in our regional communities, which we will never leave behind despite claims to the contrary. We have a positive plan for our regional hospitals and this Budget provides \$15 million to upgrade rural and regional hospitals and ambulance stations.

I am delighted it is the Liberal Government delivering \$30 million for a fully established Tasmanian paramedical retrieval service. This is about supporting quicker response times and ensuring patients receive specialist medical care on arrival of the helicopter service. It is a genuine retrieval service. This will save lives and I am pleased we have brought this forward. Evidence indicates that a helicopter staffed with a doctor and paramedic can expect to realise an additional five survivors per 100 helicopter trauma responses. My advice is that, in Tasmania, this could be as many as nine lives per year. We are so pleased to bring that forward and we know it has been embraced by clinicians.

This Government is welcoming Calvary's proposal to invest in a new \$100 million private hospital co-located adjacent to the Launceston General Hospital. We have listened to the experts, including specialists and the hospital community, who have expressed support for the proposal, saying it has the potential to improve recruit and retention of specialists. It is also about providing a mix of services Launceston has been missing out on, so we will ensure the community's best interests are at the centre of any future plans, including by not giving away the car park and by not giving away area required for our women's and children's precinct, which we were goaded to do.

I am thankful to the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management. We have a plan to make Tasmania the safest state in the nation and have set a target to have lowest serious crime rate. To achieve this, we need to support and invest in our first class police service. We have re-employed the police sacked under the previous government. Better than that, we re-employed 113 officers after the previous government sacked 108.

**Ms O'Byrne** - They did not.

**Mr FERGUSON** - They did. That is what they did.

During this term we will build an even better police service to keep Tasmanians safe, with a further investment in 125 new frontline police officers. We will be supporting them by implementing a range of new initiatives and investing in key infrastructure.

We will also continue our fuel reduction program, which is a nation-leading, contemporary and strategic approach involving the whole of government. I wish Mr Hidding was here to hear me shower praise on him for having this up and running. It has been fantastic and communities around Tasmania are benefiting from that right now, living in a safer community.

We have provided in this Budget \$1.5 million over three years to assist with the establishment and ongoing administration of a Flood Policy Unit within the State Emergency Service. As I previously advised this House, the two governments, Commonwealth and state, are also jointly funding the \$3 million Tasmanian Flood Project under the National Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements.

Time will not permit me to talk about our commitment to winning the war on ice. This involves dealing with organised criminal groups, including outlaw motorcycle gangs which, on police and ACIC advice, are heavily involved in the importation and distribution of dangerous drugs in our state; affecting and hurting our families. These gangs also resort to violence or intimidation to protect their patch, their business model. The wearing of colours is being addressed and we will bringing forward legislation to deal with this as a result of our promise at the election and our consultation with the Tasmanian community. Tasmania is a soft target for criminals until we do these things, given other states have already implemented this legislation.

In science and technology, this Government is a strong supporter of our technology sector as an enabler of economic growth across every other industry. In our first term of government we delivered a range of initiatives. To name a few: the roll out of TasGov Free Wi-Fi hotspot network; the Digital Ready for business program was revitalised; the Enterprize innovation hubs in Hobart and Launceston are bringing together entrepreneurs in our technology community to foster a startup ecosystem. In a short time the hubs have also spearheaded a significant project, the LORA Internet-of-Things network network, which is an Australian first for us with city-wide coverage. We have joined with Code Club and the Telstra Foundation and we have moved government data out of previous government-owned, highly vulnerable makeshift data centres into proper, secure data centres. We are managing our risk of vulnerable systems in a much more prudent way.

There is a lot more to be done. During this term of government, through the Science and Technology portfolio, we have committed to a range of initiatives to continue to strengthen our economy and provide better outcomes for Tasmanians. This includes: funding to enhance Tasmania's digital inclusion so more Tasmanians can be aware and empowered; \$3.5 million to improve mobile coverage for the Great Eastern Drive; funding for a new industry workforce development plan, work for which has already commenced; funding to extend the Digital Ready program; funding to extend Enterprize innovation hubs; and the continuation of funding under our Digital Transformation Fund ensuring government agencies can be even better at transforming their processes, that they are robust and accessible to the Tasmanian people.

In this Budget, this Government has funded the new Legana Primary School. I have been closely involved with this. It is an important commitment we have made to open schools in growing regional areas, such as Legana in my electorate of Bass. Funding of \$5 million is being provided so that work can commence well and truly before the end of this second term of office. The planning work for that is critical, working closely with the West Tamar Council.

There is funding for the West Tamar Highway. Another initiative is the new synthetic soccer pitch for the Launceston area.

This is a government that has worked hard to put Tasmania into a strong position for years to come. There is a stark contrast with those opposite who have not put forward an alternative plan, which the community does expect of them. I am pleased that in my portfolio areas and in my electorate of Bass, we have implemented and funded in our Budget all those areas we committed to. They are targeted investments, a demonstration of the vision this Government has for our state and the Budget needs to deliver those things. Tasmanians know the Hodgman majority Liberal Government is delivering, as we did in our first term, and as we were elected to do in our second term.

As elected representatives, we are all leaders in our community and often the greatest test of a leader is how they respond when they do not succeed. On election night in South Australia, the Government changed from Labor to Liberal. Former South Australian premier, Jay Weatherill, is the classic example of how to be gracious and optimistic in concession. In his concession speech on election night in March, it was a reminder to me we all need to work together in a professional way and accept what the voters have decided. Mr Weatherill's congratulated the incoming premier in his speech. He said of Steven Marshall, '... he has all of our support to take on this most important role.'. He said of his new Premier in that state, 'he has all of our support to take on this most important role'.

Obviously that would have been a very disappointing evening for Mr Weatherill who is a premier who did a lot for his state. I respect him, but I respect him particularly for his concession that night. I contrast that with the victory speech from the Leader of the Labor Party. There was no concession, there was no phone call, and even the next day a failure to acknowledge that the Tasmanian people had overwhelmingly chosen a majority Hodgman Liberal government. That was a complete disregard for the will of Tasmanians.

Now that we have that result settled it is for the Government to deliver on our commitments, which we are doing; to believe in our plan, which we are committed to; and to respect the will of -

**Dr Woodruff** - To the Farrell family. Your commitment is to the Farrell family to give them unfettered access to poker machines.

**Madam SPEAKER** - Order, Dr129 Woodruff.

**Mr FERGUSON** - the people who expect every member of this House, even the one who is noisily interjecting, to respect the will of the Tasmanian people -

**Members** interjecting.

**Madam SPEAKER** - Order. Dr Woodruff, I am going to give you the privilege of my first warning.

**Mr FERGUSON** - and to support a sensible, positive platform that the Government is committed to delivering, which the public expects all of us to honour and which the Budget provides for, allowing all members to consider this as we move forward. That is what the public expect of us.

I commend the Treasurer and all my colleagues who have contributed to it. Everybody in our team has played a role, every single one of our Liberal members in this House and the other House

has played a key role in getting us to this point. The Budget delivers on that. It should be thoroughly endorsed by every member of this House as we have seen in the Tasmanian community. I commend it.

[2.42 p.m.]

**Dr BROAD** (Braddon) - Madam Speaker, the Treasurer, Peter Gutwein, was quoted in *The Examiner* as saying that Tasmania is on the cusp of a golden age. I argue that if you have a more in-depth look at this Budget, what he is talking about is a golden age of spending and debt.

This Budget is built on a house of cards. What it shows is that the Liberal Governments have been big spenders. We have seen this not only in this term but we have seen it from Liberal governments in the past. We know that the Gray government almost bankrupted the state. In the Groom/Rundle years there was no money left. This had to be fixed after the Bacon government won the election in 1998. I was given an insight into the financial situation at the time during the Groom/Rundle years. Immediately after the Bacon government won that election, comments were made by Bill Bonde, the then primary industries minister. He could not understand what the Bacon government was going to do. What he apparently said was 'We undersold; we did not tell exactly how bad the budget situation was'. He could not understand how the Bacon government was going to be able to resurrect things. Resurrect things they did.

**Mr Shelton** - Yes, John Howard gave the states GST. That is how it was resurrected.

**Madam SPEAKER** - Order, Mr Shelton.

**Dr BROAD** - The Bacon government had to fix up all these Liberal problems and start paying back the \$1.3 billion of debt so that Tasmania was net debt free in 2005, which is an extraordinary outcome. We are now seeing again a Liberal government that has spending out of control. This is a Liberal government that is blowing more than half a billion on an election cash splash. Throughout the election campaign there were extravagant promises made. I could not understand how they were going to pay for them. It becomes obvious in this Budget that they are doing it by running down the cash that we have in the bank.

The Treasurer, Mr Gutwein, has never delivered an underlying net operating surplus. Yes, he has made projections in the past but he has always had to come back for more cash from the consolidated fund before the beginning of the next budget, pushing the state into an underlying net deficit. This is evident in the state's declining cash position. When it comes to the real figure he should be using, instead of saying that he is running surpluses, he should be looking at the net operating balance, which deducts the money for one-off Australian Government funding.

The real position of the Tasmanian economy from this Liberal Government is a sea of red, off into the distance. Again, this is evident in the state's declining cash position. The cash position is running down. This is a big spending budget which runs massive underlying cash and fiscal deficits which will no doubt take the state back into debt. How did it come to this?

The Tasmanian economy exports about two and half times what we import. Therefore we are highly exposed to global factors, which we have seen in the past, and I have talked about it in the past in this place. We are exposed to things like the Australian dollar, commodity prices, and interest rates. After the election in 2014, the Liberal Government had extraordinary luck with a massive decline in the Australian dollar. It declined from a rate of \$1.10 down to where it has been sitting now for the last four or five years, at around 75 cents. This makes a huge difference to the



Tasmanian economy because we are so trade exposed. That is the same with commodity prices. Commodity prices have been robust. There has been a global recovery, but there have also been rivers of GST coming from the federal coffers. The vast majority of revenue growth has come from GST and specific purpose payments from the federal government.

What we have seen is GST growing at the rate of about 5.3 per cent over the last four years. This is revenue that was not forecast in 2014 and could not be forecast because it was an extraordinary run. But what have we seen? We have seen no economic reform. We saw the embarrassing situation where the Treasurer was asked a very simple question about economic reform. He stood up in this parliament and could not name anything because there has been no economic reform. There has been no improvement to structural issues. We still see massive issues with health and housing. We see ambulances being ramped. We see access blocked to hospitals, meaning that, as I have spoken about in the past, heart attack victims cannot be transferred from the north-west to Launceston or Hobart for clinically appropriate treatment because the hospitals are blocked.

Staff have also warned that the re-design of the child protection system is running off the rails. We have ministers casually admitting that they are being caught napping on issues like the lack of housing - meaning that people are sleeping in tents. On top of that, we have the worst credit rating of any state in the country. That the budget does not address these issues has been recognised by other people. Kym Goodes from TasCOSS is quoted as saying:

This budget does nothing for the next generation. It is not a plan for the future.

What do we see? We see no new money for Housing. We see less than half the Health funding promised at the election. So what is the story here? How can the rivers of cash from the federal government be squandered? Why are we in a declining cash position? What we have seen over the last five budgets is a massive growth in expenditure, at 4.4 per cent on average over the last four years of the Liberal Government.

We saw again today in question time that this was something that the Treasurer could not deal with. He would not even discuss it. Instead he talked about everything else. He held up a straw man argument and brazenly ignored getting anywhere near answering. He must be embarrassed. The growth in expenditure has been 4.4 per cent over the last four years, almost twice what it was under the last four years of Labor.

Extraordinarily, the Budget predicts that expenditure growth will be 1.7 per cent over the next four years, less than half his own average over the next four years. The basis of this Budget is apparent controlled spending, but we have seen projections that are blown out of the water by last minute raids on the consolidated fund.

To be clear, this is a deficit budget with a huge spending and debt bomb at the end of it. There are extreme risks in this Budget. Net debt, which represents borrowings less the sum of cash deposits in investments, is tracking to be just \$23.3 million above the debt line in two years and only \$14.8 million above this net debt in three years' time, so we are travelling in a very narrow window before going back into net debt - net debt that the Bacon government had to clean up from the last Liberal government and it took until 2005 to do that. What we are seeing now is a Budget that is teetering on the edge of slipping back into net debt.

Considering that the Budget is now about \$6 billion, this \$14.8 million figure or the \$23.3 million is a mere accounting error from heading back into net debt; even a minute drop in revenue will see this state once again head back into net debt. This is something that again the Treasurer will not address in question time or answer any questions on. He has his head buried in the sand.

To give further context to this, before the Budget the Treasurer raided the consolidated fund to the tune of about \$160 million to cover spending shortfalls and to frontload some of the election promises like the \$20 million, 280-odd grants that were dished out during the election campaign. That money went out the door before this Budget to make sure it did not come onto this year's books, so \$160 million of additional spending was raided from the consolidated fund before this Budget was brought down. That \$160 million is about 11 times the cash surplus projected in three years time. If just that single raid on the consolidated fund alone is repeated, that would be 11 times what we are predicted to be above that net debt line in only three years time.

This Budget also goes on to detail specific risks in the budget papers. It discusses federal policy changes for funding Health and Education through the specific-purpose payments, so if any of these things change, again we could be heading back to net debt.

As to National Partnership Payments, the budget papers say:

Future funding arrangements in relation to expiring of NPPs are an ongoing risk exposure for all states and territories, particularly where the NPPs are funding critical core service delivery functions.

Again, if all of these risks are inherent in the Budget, why are we treading such a thin line above net debt? It continues:

State taxation revenue estimates are sensitive to changes in a range of economic parameters, such as employment, wages growth and inflation, as well as prevailing economic conditions in Tasmania more generally.

For example, just a 1 per cent drop in the number of people employed within the Tasmanian economy results in a drop of about \$3 million in Tasmania's payroll tax revenue in 2018-19. Furthermore, it would be estimated that a 1 per cent in property prices could lead to a \$3 million drop in conveyance duty revenue. Only very minor changes in some of these assumptions mean that we start going backwards. Considering we only have \$14.8 million above the net debt line in three years time, they are running some significant risks here.

General agency cost pressures are another issue. The budget papers say:

While all agencies are expected to deliver services within their allocated Budget and Forward Estimates, there continues to be a range of Budget pressures which agencies need to manage ...

It talks about full-time staffing equivalents. If the state Government signs up to federal programs that can have an impact on FTE levels and more people need to be employed to deliver those services, there could be general increases in costs of inputs and increasing demand for a range of services. We cannot predict how many people will come to the hospital or who will need access to

Service Tasmania and things like that, so there is the risk that again the cost pressures will blow out.

In Health the growth in expenditure far exceeds the inflation rate. The delivery of services in the Tasmanian community within the allocated funding continues to be a significant challenge, but bearing in mind once again that we are only \$14.8 million above that net debt line in three years time, we have very little room to move. The potential for future health services overspending, materially impacting on the broader budget position therefore remains a significant risk, especially since Health expenditure comprises approximately 30 per cent of the total budget expenditure.

We also have issues, for example, in Justice services. It has highlighted that the cost of getting rid of suspended sentences is uncertain:

Budget estimates are based on modelling undertaken by the Department of Justice and, as such, actual costs may vary when changes are implemented in practice.

We also have risk issues associated with the National Disaster Relief Recovery arrangements. During 2016 the state met significant additional costs as a result of major bushfire and flood events, which have been talked about. Recently Hobart experienced an extreme weather event that also caused significant property damage. But, for the purpose of budget Estimates, assumptions have been made in relation to the level of future funds to be received, the timing and the receipt of those funds. Any variation from these assumptions will again result in an impact on the current budget Estimates. Because we have such a wafer-thin line above that debt line, any of those things going wrong means we are slipping back into net debt.

We have talked about public sector wages. The Government's wages policy provides for the total cost of salary increases, allowances and any other employment conditions for all industrial agreements to be no greater than 2 per cent per annum, but what does this actually mean? It means that in coming years, the difference between mainland and Tasmanian wages will increase and there will have to be a catch-up at some stage, or recruitment for any employee in demand around the country will become very difficult, and this could lead to a massive brain drain. If the wages policy in Tasmania means we are not competitive on a national basis, if you are in a service or have some sort of qualification that is in demand, there could be a significant difference between what you earn here and in an equivalent area. This is certainly recognised by stakeholders in the industry. Emily Shepherd from the ANMF said:

With current challenges in recruitment and retention and close to 200 vacant nursing and midwifery positions across the state, there is apprehension that the Government will be able to successfully recruit staff to these new positions.

This will certainly be made worse if there is a significant difference between what you can get paid in Tasmania and what you get paid elsewhere.

Tom Lynch from the CPSU says:

Come to Tasmania, where pay is less than anywhere else in Australia. There is a huge risk to the budget. The Government has the capacity to pay when there are surpluses forecast.

Again, I point out that the surpluses are deceptive and wafer thin.

In the budget papers there is uncertainty of the impact of some of the Government's election commitments that impact on the Government's business sector to increase costs or reduce returns. The detailed outcomes of this election largesse will 'not be known until the associated processes have been completed and therefore it has not been possible to quantify their potential impact at this time'. That creates a risk for the Budget.

Madam Speaker, do we have a situation where the risks outweigh the potential benefits? The risks are not only what is inherent in the Budget. We are significantly exposed to things that happen outside Tasmania and, indeed, outside Australia. There are significant risks on the horizon. That is why it is not prudent to be running down our cash position at the rate the Government is. There is uncertainty over China's future growth prospects with concerns over the stability of its financial system and particularly the rapidly growing levels of debt in China. As China is also Tasmania's principal export market and an important source of tourism visitors and international students, any slowing down of the Chinese economy will have a direct impact on a range of businesses in Tasmania.

There are also concerns over increased levels of protectionism by the member for Braddon Mr Brooks' mate, Donald Trump. Whether this will have an effect on global trading flows and therefore future global economic growth is unknown. When we have a government in the United States under Donald Trump putting snap tariffs on metallic products and so on there could be an impending trade war, which would have a massive impact on the Tasmanian economy. Some industries important to Australia and also Tasmania could be directly affected, especially in the resources sector. Other geopolitical tensions, including on the Korean Peninsula and around the South China Sea, present a risk to the global outlook. This is coming from the budget papers. I have not made this up: these are directly taken from your own budget papers.

Nationally, a combination of high levels of household debt and weak wages growth presents risks for household spending, especially if the fall in property prices extends beyond Sydney and households assess that they need to repair their own balance sheets by increasing their own savings. If we have households that decide to stop spending, that will have implications on GST revenue.

**Mr Shelton** - What are you going to drop out of the budget?

**Dr BROAD** - You should not be running such a tight budget. You should not be running down your cash position so hard because you have these global risks. It is not prudent economic management to be doing this. You have blown \$500 million and the cash position is becoming worse and worse, giving you less room to move. Slower national economic growth would likely impact the state's interstate exports within Australia, which are an important source of demand and economic activity.

**Mr Shelton** - Be bold, Dr Broad. Tell us what you would drop out of it.

**Madam SPEAKER** - Order, Mr Shelton.

**Mr Brooks** - Stop being a fraud and outline what you are going to do.

**Madam SPEAKER** - Order. I remind the two gentlemen to my right there is no need to interject.

**Dr BROAD** - I will talk briefly about some issues from my portfolios, initially primary industries and water. Agriculture is a key driver of Tasmania's economic prosperity in rural and regional areas. It creates jobs across the state and is important for the Tasmanian brand. It creates careers, not only seasonal jobs.

As far as Tasmanian Irrigation is concerned, the funding to finish off the tranche 2 irrigation schemes is welcome. There is an issue with tranche 3. There was a statement in the election material splashed around during the election campaign, saying, 'A re-elected Hodgman majority Liberal Government will invest an additional \$70 million towards a third tranche of Tasmanian Irrigation schemes.'. It is equivocal. This is the amount to go in but what we see in the budget papers is \$45 million, starting in 2019-20. They said in the budget papers -

While the Australian Government has provided funding for Tranche 3 feasibility studies, it is yet to commit to funding for the Tranche 3 construction program. If the Australian Government does not agree to fund Tranche 3 projects on a similar basis, the State would need to commit additional funding in order to construct the full range of projects envisaged.

Is that saying the extra \$35 million is going to be picked up by the federal government? I thought it was equivocal in the election that the majority Liberal Government would invest \$70 million. There is not \$70 million in the Budget. There is \$45 million. Then the paper says that maybe the federal government has not agreed to make up the extra. The state was committing to \$70 million. How much is the federal Government committing to? Is the federal commitment on top of the \$70 million? You can read it each way in the budget papers. There is no certainty.

I see a huge missed opportunity in this Budget: the creation of a centre of excellence in agriculture. In the Budget is \$7 million for research farms and \$5 million for the Freer Farm. Then there is talk about what that investment would do. I would have liked to have seen, and if we were in government we would have delivered, the opportunity to bring research, innovation and education to one site. If we only talk about the Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture, people arrive to work at the university campus at Mooreville Road every day, and step into their car. Some go to Forth, some go to Elliott, and you have that inherent inefficiency. Agricultural research is spread over three sites on the north-west coast. We have the Freer Farm, with TAFE education, at another site. I was campaigning to have a whole-of-sector approach to bring all those things together. This would be a whole-of-sector approach to agricultural extension, innovation, et cetera, to create a real centre of excellence in agriculture, delivering a real centre of excellence in agriculture in a similar vein to the Menzies Institute or the Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies. The north-west coast is well set up for it.

This Budget shows this opportunity will be missed. This was about bringing the agricultural research within TIA, TAFE and other organisations that receive a brief mention in the Budget Tasmania; Fermentasmania, Sprout, et cetera, the opportunity to establish semi-commercial kitchen and processing facilities, and to be a true centre of excellence. It would be a paddock-to-plate research facility that links up well with the university's plan for the Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture, and turn it into a globally recognised centre of excellence. This is not simply putting money into the TAFE farm and calling that a centre of excellence. I was talking about a real centre of excellence.

I could not see any money in the Budget for agricultural branding, something else I campaigned on. Our brand is one of our competitive strengths, which we need to build on. We need to build

on the foundations we have already established. It is also time for Tasmania to adopt a value chain approach to marketing its projects. We cannot continue talking about production. We have to talk about profitability. The way we do that is through our brand and through taking a value chain approach rather than a supply chain approach. Our state's fabulous food should be marketed and branded as Tasmanian as often as possible. We sought some money for that and it is another missed opportunity. The state's marketing would ensure our agriculture and primary industries are rightfully recognised as a critical part in their brand. It is vital to compete on price instead of focusing on production targets. Production does not necessarily mean profitability.

Then we come to biosecurity. We know the Government has a shameful record on biosecurity with fruit fly, myrtle rust, Norwegian salmon on the shelves, blueberry rust and so on. We have seen the state Government rescued by a \$20 million federal bailout, of which \$8 million has already been spent.

The Government is talking a big game on resources. The Budget shows a massive predicted drop in royalties from \$41.1 million down to \$34.1 million, \$34.6 million, \$28.1 million down to \$23.1 million by the time we reach 2021-22. That is almost a halving of royalties from the resources sector. I cannot understand what is happening with that.

We have a line in the Budget saying the \$25 million assistance package for Copper Mines of Tasmania was not in the Budget. I hope Copper Mines of Tasmania continues because it is vital to the west coast economy. It is \$25 million unbudgeted for and already promised to Copper Mines of Tasmania. Considering we are only \$23.3 million above that net debt line in two years' time or only \$14.8 million in three years' time, that \$25 million unfunded in the Budget would have to be found.

Things have changed in forestry. We have seen a transition in the industry. We are seeing more diversity in the industry. We see that the TFS and that difficult process is now seeing investments on the horizon. I will talk specifically about the Hermal Group. The Hermal Group receive a \$190 million investment, 200-odd jobs based on value-adding a world-leading product that is export-ready. I am sure there will be glowing global markets for this project. However, one thing we will not hear Mr Barnett talking about is that the only reason the Hermal Group is interested in timber from Tasmania is that it is plantation-based and FSC certified. The irony is this would not be possible unless we had a change in the plantation industry; plantations were bought by New Forests and FSC certified, therefore this investment could proceed. This investment would not be possible without that difficult process of the Tasmanian Forest Agreement. There would not be plantation-based, FSC certified forests. They do not want the conflict. The people such as the Hermal Group are forthcoming, good people wanting to invest that sort of money, but they are insistent they do not want the conflict in the forest industry. That is why they want plantation-based, and why they want FSC certified. Yet, we still have a minister intent on picking fights and creating conflict.

We also have a Government that conveniently overlooks the massive injection of funds the Tasmanian Forest Agreement delivered to Tasmania to transition our economy. We have had members happy to cut ribbons but will not acknowledge the successes gained from this particular package: for example, the Dial Blythe Irrigation Scheme funded via the forest agreement. The reason Costa can expand is because of the certainty the Dial Blythe Irrigation Scheme created, funded from that transition in the economy. That was a Labor plan; it has been derided but it is starting to deliver. The irony there is extraordinary and the Government will not admit or accept that the transition has taken place. I am happy to keep talking about that. The Government also

has to acknowledge that when it comes to timber products the market has made up their collective minds, so for the sake of industry FSC certification for Sustainable Timbers Tasmania, estates must be a priority.

Labor and I are not the only ones criticising this Budget. There is an article from John Lawrence in today's *Mercury* that talks about some real issues with the Budget. John Lawrence says:

The Treasurer is setting the agenda. We have fixed the budget mess, he says. ... Does this mean the Budget is fixed? No.

That is according to John Lawrence and me as well. He continues:

... the Treasurer crosses the line from an arguable position ... to a baseless assertion that he is creating a future buffer.

A buffer requires a build-up of cash reserves and/or increased ability to borrow and service borrowings. Under this budget, the opposite will occur. Cash reserves will decrease and borrowings increase.

The issue I have with this Budget is that it is treading such a thin line. The Budget highlights a whole series of risks on this Budget and yet cash reserves will decrease and borrowings will increase. That means if there is even just a ripple in global economic circumstances, a hint or even the waft of a global financial downturn, this Budget will be in serious trouble. Mr Lawrence goes on to say:

The only buffer being created by the Treasurer is one between fiction and reality.

The net operating surplus of the general government includes infrastructure grants from the Australian government as income when received but excludes the amounts as expenses when spent because they're capital expenses. Only operating expenses are included.

He goes on to say:

**Time expired.**

[3.12 p.m.]

**Dr WOODRUFF** (Franklin) - Mr Deputy Speaker, I am honoured to speak to the Greens' vision for Tasmania and our alternative budget, which the Leader of the Tasmanian Greens, Cassy O'Connor, presented earlier today. I will further add to the details of our alternative budget by focusing on the portfolio areas I have responsibility for.

The Greens' vision for Tasmania is for a state and a people within it who are resilient. It is based on an acceptance of the world as it actually is - the science, the human values we have inherited as culture, and an understanding that we essentially rely on the ecosystems for every aspect of human life, not only for food and the resources that we use to move through our lives but for spiritual sustenance. We also base our alternative budget on a belief in justice and inclusivity. We put communities first and we want to open Tasmania up to the reality of the new industries that will shape our future moving on from the second industrial revolution into one that accepts the reality

of the changing climate as a result of global warming, the changing digital industries and the massive transition we are all living through.

In May this year the federal Senate Committee Inquiry into the Implications of Climate Change for Australia's National Security made a recommendation that climate change is a current and existential national security risk to Australia, one that could inflame regional conflicts over food, water and land, and even imperil life on Earth. They further said that the security risk of climate change was not a possible future threat but one that endangers Australia and its region. That is us in Tasmania as well. They further said that they define an existential threat as one that could:

One that threatens the premature extinction of Earth-originating intelligent life or the permanent and drastic destruction of its potential for desirable future development.

The committee reported that climate change threatened the health of Australians, the viability of our communities, businesses and the economy. They said climate change is heightening the severity of natural hazards, increasing the spread of infectious diseases, increasing water insecurity and threatening agriculture. Sherri Goodman, who was a United States deputy under-secretary of defence in the Clinton administration, made the point that climate change is a 'threat multiplier', exacerbating existing conflict over water and resources and it poses a direct threat to the national security of Australia. Climate change is not a problem in the distant future, but it is one that is now.

In that context, the Greens reject the massive underinvestment in climate change in this Government's Budget for this year. Instead we will act to put the money where it is needed to make Tasmania climate-ready. We will put \$8 million over four years into the Tasmanian Climate Office and re-establish the ministry of climate change. The operations and activities of all government bodies must become best practice with regard to reducing emissions and adapting to climate. There can be huge savings found in this area - we have estimated \$18 million minimum over the forward Estimates. The Tasmanian Climate Action Council must be re-established, a very important advisory body which was cut.

The minister for climate change would work with stakeholders and community to strengthen a climate change state action act that would acknowledge that climate change is anthropogenic, acknowledge the responsibility of all Tasmanian governments to take decisive action towards reducing emissions, protecting carbon stocks, and increasing carbon sequestration across our landscape. It would also work on short-term economy-wide sectoral targets, emission reduction plans would be established and we would have annual reporting on Tasmania's total and sectoral emissions.

These are the sorts of measures the Greens would move immediately to do in this year. An essential part of recognising the reality of where we are in the world is that the Greens would end native forest logging. That would be a huge saving to the budget of \$105 million over four years and would not only protect the biodiversity of our native forests and those beautiful plants and animals that live in Tasmania, some of them nowhere else on this planet, but it would also free us up from the divisive, old industrial style of forestry and move us into the potential for using the existing plantations we have and making something that is high value and low volume to export overseas.

The Greens have long advocated for a fair price for rooftop solar and we know that part of reducing our carbon emissions is for every person, as well as for us as a state, to take responsibility



for doing what we can. There are many Tasmanians who have already made this leap and have rooftop solar systems. There are many opportunities for community solar farms and increasing the security of the electricity supply. If only they were supported with a fair price for the power that they produce.

The Greens would establish a fair solar tariff and we would also establish an independent wholesale electricity price. It is important the electricity price is not fiddled with by politicians and is not made a political football. At the moment, we estimate \$75 million to that would be a cost that we would bear through other savings in the Budget. We would find that money because we recognise the advantage to Tasmania and Tasmanians of making a decision to increase the production of renewable energy and to increase the savings that can be passed back to people on their electricity bill.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the environment has been another vastly under-funded area in this Budget. The Greens would move immediately to establish a department of the environment. Clearly, there is no place for a department of the environment within the Department of Primary Industry and Water. That mega department, for whatever reason, for whatever political imperatives, clearly has done nothing of value for the environment, relative to the work that must be done.

We have a hugely underfunded Threatened Species Unit. The Greens would put the money where it is needed - \$8.7 million over four years. This would not only restore the number of staff, which was thoroughly gutted under the last term of government; the minister was saying last week that there were 15 staff, down to, I think, 2.7 or 2.9. We would raise that back to where it was before they cut it, and then we would double the numbers. We cannot go back to the levels we had in 2014; we need twice the number of people we had then. The threats to our natural species are multiplying all the time; changes in climate, changes in feral species. We had a new species of shellfish, never before spotted in the southern hemisphere, identified only this week. The threats are real. We value our species and we will put the money into the department of the environment. We would make sure there is a State of the Environment report that returns to Tasmania and to parliament every year. We would provide additional funding in the first year for baseline audits because that work is not being done.

Importantly, a central task would be to undertake and develop a zero waste strategy for Tasmania. We must move towards having zero waste. Every person, everywhere on the planet, must do this work. Some European countries are leading the way. We want Tasmania to be the state in Australia that has the best developed zero waste strategy. We acknowledge the work of the Greens' aldermen on the Hobart City Council who have driven a lot of the work of that council. They are doing fantastic work on plastics in the waste stream. We would use some money to establish a strategy, educational materials for people and, importantly, we would fund that work through a waste levy and container deposit scheme.

Despite that, in the last term the Liberals voted down the container deposit scheme legislation which we moved, it had the support of many community groups, including the Scouts, who were here on the day. Six other states and territories in Australia have already adopted container deposit legislation. Despite that, the Government has wasted another whole year manufacturing a report that was never needed. It was never needed because the evidence was there; it was sitting on the shelf ready to pick up like other states. It was just another stalling tactic. The Greens are about action and we would get that container deposit legislation happening immediately.

Tasmanian salmon farming is operating at an industrial scale now. It is nothing like where it began 20 years ago. What began as a couple of small businesses is now three large corporations. Shareholders are their interest group. Most of them do not live in Tasmania. We essentially have three large corporations that are vying for pieces of Tasmanian marine, sea, coast and estuarine areas. We desperately need a government that will put in fair rules, an umpire to ensure not only that those corporations can act with fair competition and fair rules, but that the biosecurity of the operations of the fish farms are properly regulated for the marine environment and for the impact on other businesses. Most importantly, we need a fair set of rules. We need some independence in the management and the development of salmon farming in Tasmania.

Both the Labor and the Liberal parties are equally complicit in allowing the industry to write its own rules over the last couple of decades, and in allowing the industry to create its own development plans. Both the Labor and the Liberal parties have said nothing about the impacts on local communities, on other commercial stakeholders, and on the marine environment because of the huge expansion of the grow zone into Storm Bay and into north-western Tasmania around King Island and Circular Head.

A massive industry expansion is underway. We believe that, first, we have to protect our fragile marine environment and, second, make sure that every stakeholder has an opportunity to have a say about where fish farming occurs in our waters. We would establish a truly independent EPA. Regardless of how that Authority should be operating, the facts are there and they speak for themselves in Macquarie Harbour. We desperately need to shore up the true independence of the EPA. We would put money into restructuring the EPA into an independent and self-contained authority.

We would do the work to establish the bioregional plans for the state waters and, importantly, continue the work that was nearly there until Mr Llewellyn, the minister from the Labor Party, scuttled it. The marine protected areas, which we have seen be so successful in the tiny few that operate around Tasmanian waters, are incredibly biodiverse. They are a source of future stock of fish and a source of integral beauty just in themselves. We plan to continue that work and to identify how we can protect our marine environment so it is there for all people in the future.

We have a suite of law reforms in marine environment. These are small costs. These are fundamentally about a value shift. The Greens believe in fairness; we believe in sustainability. This is a small cost to the Budget with a big gain.

In 100 years we want our environment to be as beautiful and diverse as it is today. We know that in the last term of government, the Liberals rushed through the planning scheme. It was written by developers for development interests. It threatens our clean, green brand. We are already seeing developments coming to fruition, such as Cambria Green on the east coast, which is an affront to planning. The word 'planning' should not be used. That is a straight-out buy of Australian land to set up a Specific Area Plan where there will be no planning within it. People have no say. It will be potentially owned by a foreign government and the planning rules have been written within it. This is not the Tasmania we want as a future.

We will put \$4 million into developing state policies to guide long-term planning that protects the public interests. We will increase the money to the Resource Management Planning and Appeals Tribunal. They are under-resourced for their work. We will spend \$1.24 million supporting the work of the Environmental Defender's Office. Hear, hear for the EDO because they are the only legal people who are there to provide advice and support for all those Tasmanians who

are confronted with massive developments, such as Rosny Hill or the export woodchip port that is proposed for Dover. Those are the communities that rely on the Environmental Defender's Office. There is no government agency to give them any support.

We would also review the Crown Lands Act. We would spend \$9 million on transferring the Department of State Growth to the Department of State Planning and include an office of the chief engineer, a state architect and a state demographer. We need to revisit the laws that guide the planning scheme because they do not give people a say. In the same way as the marine farm development plan process is so corrupted when it comes to the development of new fish farms, so too is the Tasmanian Planning Scheme now being written so developers get to have a say.

The situation happening on Rosny Hill with the Clarence City Council right now is a classic, textbook Liberal government approach to development. There has been a secretive planning proposal established in the Office of the Coordinator-General, and that work has gone on for two or three years behind closed doors and the community only gets to hear about it four days before it goes to council for a vote. There is nothing fair about that process, nothing just and nothing good for the future of Tasmania to plan our public places, our parks, in that way. We will restore the proper process and defund the Office of the Coordinator-General and Infrastructure Tasmania and put that \$14 million into making sure the planning scheme works for people and works for us for the future.

The justice system under the Liberals has been eroded by small changes which have largely left us in a situation where the architecture of integrity, justice and transparency is being constantly eroded. We have seen many mandatory minimum sentencing bills come through this House and they have been chucked out, but this Government is having another go. To prevent that sort of erosion, the Greens would put \$4 million into funding a human rights act and establishing a human rights commission. We would restore the integrity bodies of the Office of the Ombudsman and especially fund a health complaints commissioner. There are so many heart-wrenching stories of people who have suffered injustices in the health system and we need to have a special commissioner devoted to health complaints. They are a particular sort of complaint. People are often suffering anguish and they need to have professional and direct support on that issue. We would put \$5 million over four years into restoring our integrity bodies.

We would restore the Liberals' cuts to Legal Aid. They have cut \$6 million over the next forward Estimates - shame. This is for the poorest people who need legal access. There are a whole lot of words you can use fiddling around stuff but the bottom line is that \$6 million has gone out of Legal Aid and that is not small bickies.

We would also work on Breaking the Cycle because this Liberal Government has lost its way on that, despite the fact they have signed up to it. The late minister, Vanessa Goodwin, did an excellent job in that area but the Breaking the Cycle strategy has lost its way. We would restore funding integral to that for the Reintegration of Ex-Offenders program as well as more money into general literacy and numeracy support for people in prison and extra vocational education programs.

We could save \$400 000 without blinking by not going any further in trying to weaken Tasmania's gun laws. That was not a policy the Liberals had any mandate on. It was a secretive policy and a secret deal. The only reason it ever came to light before the election was because of the Greens releasing it after we got that information presented to us by someone who had been a stakeholder in that very small select stakeholder group. We do not and have never supported any change to the National Firearms Agreement. The Greens are proud supporters of that agreement as

we will continue to do that work and resist the Liberals' erosion of gun laws just so they can get an election vote out of it.

Animals are much loved by Tasmanians and the Greens understand that in order to really protect animal welfare in this state we need to have an independent animal welfare commission and an inspectorate within Tasmania Police. We have so many people around the state caring for dumped animals or animals that have been misused or are simply found wandering, as well our wildlife carers who look after animals that are run over on the side of the road, little babies, animals they find in pouches of mothers that have been killed by cars. We would put \$2 million into grants for organisations and individuals that rescue, rehabilitate and rehome those animals with particular focus for organisations that care for injured wildlife.

We would find savings by ending the events and attractions that are cruel to animals so we would defund TasRacing. We would recoup the costs from defunding TasRacing and the Office of Racing Integrity and direct it towards animal care, not animal cruelty. Greyhounds are loved by anybody who has spent any time with those gentle animals. They are a particular sort of dog and one of the gentlest dogs if you spend time with greyhounds, as I have through other people who have rehomed them. We understand that Tasmanians want to do what they can to end that cruel racing so support for greyhound rehoming is an integral part of our animal welfare budget and we would put the money that is required, an estimated \$1.75 million, into rehoming greyhounds.

The phase-out of poker machines is a central part of the Greens' health and wellbeing budget. We know that this election was bought by money from the gambling industry and there is now a possibility that Labor might try to slither out the back door of their commitment to end electronic gaming machines in this state. Sadly, this Government has used anything it can to stay in power, including the \$4.8 million that was proffered by the gambling industry, by the Farrells, to make sure their destructive empire that causes so much damage to people's lives in the community is retained. We will forgo the revenue from poker machines in pubs and clubs. If it costs \$44 million, we will find the money because the Greens will never back down on this issue, and we will use that money to put into population health. We will put \$7.68 million into the population health unit because the Liberals have cut the guts out of that unit. We will put \$2 million into regional allied health professionals because we know communities want allied health staff in their community. They do not want to have to drive to one of three places in the state. This Government is part of a Liberal approach to centralising those services. Both the federal and Tasmanian Liberals are all about cutting the guts out of public health and centralising services so they are harder and harder to access.

We can never have true health in the community if we do not support people's emotional and mental wellbeing. We would put \$17 million extra over the next four years into improving mental health; improving the service gaps; increasing the funds to existing services; implementing the step model of care to integrate services across all the sectors; developing a mental health service guide for evidence-based recovery outcomes; and conducting a phased-in trial for safe and more secure software systems for patient records in the area of suicide prevention as well as data reporting. We listen to the mental health sector. It is not hard. They did not ask for much. There is a lot more that could be spent in this area and \$17 million would make a big difference.

We are outraged on behalf of Palliative Care Tasmania and that this Government only funded them for the next two years. What a disgrace. What a shame. They do such important work. It was mean. We would put in the tiny \$940 000 over the forward Estimates to make sure those important services remain for Tasmanians.

We would put \$11 million into decriminalising drugs, developing a legal framework for drug decriminalisation, producing public education materials and to provide funding for new rehabilitation services.

It can all be done if you have a will. You have to have a will to focus on the things you value and make choices. The Greens have made choices and we have decided to find the money to prioritise the things Tasmanians need to have a secure, resilient future, strong communities and an environment that underpins everything we do.

### **Time expired.**

[3.42 p.m.]

**Ms ARCHER** (Denison - Attorney-General) - Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to make my budget reply in my areas of Attorney-General, Minister for Justice, Minister for Corrections, Minister for Environment, Minister for the Arts and as a member for Denison. There are many initiatives benefiting my electorate and various policies developed by me as a local member. I am sure many of my colleagues are in the same position across their electorates.

As I have said recently in this House, I am proud to be a minister in the Hodgman Liberal Government, which is delivering for Tasmania. Tasmania is now a much stronger, prouder and more confident place than ever before. Our economy is one of the strongest in the country, our budget is under control and we are able to invest more into essential services as a result. Our Plan to Build Your Future is about taking our state to the next level by ensuring everyone benefits from a stronger economy, more jobs and improved services.

The 2018-19 state Budget delivers on our plan to take Tasmania to the next level. It delivers on all our commitments, on time and in full. In Denison, that means investing more in schools, such as Cosgrove High School in Glenorchy and Lansdowne Crescent Primary in West Hobart; in health services, including 250 more beds at the Royal Hobart Hospital; and a new multi-purpose sports facility in Glenorchy. If I have time after I cover my portfolio areas, I will run through some more initiatives in my electorate.

As Attorney-General and minister for Justice, Corrections, Environment and the Arts, this Budget delivers on many important initiatives across my portfolio areas as well as continuation of existing funding. It is impossible with the time limit to run through everything in great detail, so I will do my best across the initiatives.

In Justice, our Budget provides funding to ensure Tasmanians have access to an efficient and effective justice system and allows us to progress law reforms that prioritise community safety, protect our most vulnerable and meet the expectations of the community. We are investing significantly in much needed prison and court infrastructure across the state. The Budget supports the Department of Justice to deliver on our full range of policy commitments in key areas of law reform, including a nation-leading family violence offence reform - I am referring to the persistent family violence offender offence - reforming our dangerous criminal provisions, and a comprehensive examination of our bail laws, among many other initiatives.

Our Budget supports the most vulnerable in our community, including through our participation in the National Redress Scheme. This Budget contains \$40 million over four years toward our involvement in that scheme as part of our total commitment of \$70 million over 10 years. I remind the House that recommendation came out of the final report from the royal

commission, which I tabled in the House during Question Time today. The National Redress Scheme is only one of those 409 recommendations. The amount of work that has gone into producing our initial response has been enormous across departments, across agencies and across jurisdictions. I thank my department and all other departmental staff involved, including staff in my office, for their commitment and dedication to this important reform and redress scheme. Victims can be assured that the Hodgman Liberal Government has a strong track record when it comes to pursuing reforms to benefit Tasmania's victims. Our commitments under the National Redress Scheme will support those people in our community who were failed by the system and suffered sexual abuse in an institution meant to protect them, whether government or non-government.

We have funded the redevelopment of the Burnie court complex, with \$8 million allocated as part of a wider commitment of up to \$15 million, to deliver on our plan to improve safety and amenity in this court complex. We are better resourcing our courts and prisons and ensuring sentencing options better reflect community expectations and keep Tasmanians safe. This Budget includes \$789 000 per annum to remove police from court duties in Launceston and put them back on the beat where they are most needed. We are providing \$4.3 million per annum for alternative sentencing options, including for the roll out of home detention and electronic monitoring initiatives enabled by our legislation passed late last term. This side of the House is committed to keeping Tasmanians safe, protecting the most vulnerable, especially victims of crime, and we are implementing our plan to achieve this.

In the absence of an alternative budget it is impossible to know what Labor stands for and which of their commitments they will retain, if any. For example, do they support Tasmania's participation in the National Redress Scheme? They have previously said they would sign up, so an alternative budget with any credibility would have included \$40 million for this important scheme. The Leader of the Opposition said nothing about this important scheme in her speech, which is most regrettable.

Will they also abandon north-west court users and drop their previous promise of a matching commitment to the redevelopment of the Burnie court complex? This is a much needed redevelopment. Will they backflip on their already spectacular backflip on the northern prison project, or will they stick with their deeply flawed plan to refurbish the Launceston reception prison? I had an opportunity to visit recently to witness the complex and the high need for a new prison.

Labor's so-called election commitment to extend drug treatment orders to the Supreme Court and increase the cap to 120 is a prime example of a lazy and out-of-touch Opposition. We had already done that we had already increased the court mandated diversion program from 80 to 120 statewide. I was floored by the announcement and that an Opposition can miss that completely, come out and re-announce something already actively in play.

They are all over the show and cannot be trusted even with these most basic measures. This week was their opportunity to state what they stand for, to maybe reannounce their position in relation to all of these things I have identified, but we have had silence. Unlike the Opposition, this Government laid out a clear plan and we are committed to ensuring Tasmania has an efficient justice system that meets the needs and reflects the expectations of the Tasmanian community. Despite Labor and the Greens opposition to them, we will continue to pursue reforms that put the safety and wellbeing of our frontline workers and the community and victims front and centre.

Labor's flawed ideological position on opposing mandatory sentencing blinds them to the need to take action to set a statutory minimum sentence for the most heinous of crimes, serious sexual offences against children. Instead of supporting the community's view on this issue, Labor says they will ask the Sentencing Advisory Council to investigate the creation of new offences, namely aggravated sexual intercourse with a young person and maintaining a sexual relationship with a young person in circumstances of aggravation. Clearly Labor is not paying attention, because the Sentencing Advisory Council has already considered such crimes and recommended against them. I urge members of the House to read their report in this regard. In stark contrast to Labor, our Budget delivers what Tasmanians need from a responsible government, one that has a plan and is committed to delivering it, particularly in our justice system.

This Budget also includes record infrastructure commitments including in my Corrections portfolio. Prison populations have grown throughout Australia and Tasmania has not been immune from this trend, as I have repeatedly said in this House. It is clear that a new prison is needed to ensure greater safety of the community and our Tasmania Prison Service staff and allow for greater rehabilitation opportunities for prisoners. This is why the 2018-19 state Budget includes \$45 million across the forward Estimates to commence work on stage 1 of a new prison in the state's north. This prison is about future-proofing our prison system. There will always be serious and dangerous offenders who need to be incarcerated and there is an upward trend across the nation. The prison will be built in two stages, with construction expected to commence in the 2019-20 financial year, following an extensive planning and design phase. These things do not happen overnight. Stage 1 will be completed within five years, with stage 2 works to follow thereafter.

The Budget includes \$70 million in the meantime to build a new southern remand facility on the Risdon Prison site. That new remand facility will have capacity for at least 70 remandees. This represents a significant capital outlay this term that will house a growing cohort in most Australian jurisdictions. It will also allow us to separately house remandees from convicted prisoners. These two major projects will see the creation of more than 4000 direct and indirect jobs during construction.

Under our Government there has been considerable investment in both staff and infrastructure at Tasmania Prison Service already. Over the past year alone we have increased correctional staff at an exponential rate, and while prison numbers have marginally increased for every additional prisoner, there has been at least one new Tasmania Prison Service staff member trained and employed under this Government.

We have also already invested substantially in prison infrastructure, with 81 beds anticipated to come online this year. As the House would be aware from my previous announcement, construction has already commenced on the Dr Vanessa Goodwin Cottages, which is the mother and baby unit, increasing the capacity overall for women, including minimum security, from 46 to 71 in the Mary Hutchinson Prison. Again, this is future-proofing our women's prison.

On this point, if I turn back to pressures on the prison, it appears from previous reform we have attempted put through this House that Labor's only strategy to manage pressures on the prison is to allow early release of prisoners under remissions, because they still support that, to continue to oppose mandatory sentencing for serious crimes such as those who commit serious sexual offences against children, and offenders who seriously assault our frontline workers which include correctional officers.

Yesterday I received correspondence from someone working within the system, who I will not name for obvious reasons, but they expressed extreme concerns in this regard for that point of view. On this point, it seems Labor is even out of step with the unions. I have noted the comments in the media recently of the secretary of the CPSU, Tom Lynch, on ABC radio on 19 June appearing to at least endorse the Government's plans for stronger sentences for those who assault our frontline workers. Mr Lynch suggests our politicians should look at making sure there are stricter penalties in these instances and that is what we are doing in the face of consistent and ideological opposition from Labor.

Unlike those opposite, when it comes to our prison, we know there will always be a need for incarcerating serious offenders, which is why we are taking this serious approach to actively managing the needs of the Tasmania Prison Service into the future, which is no different to any other jurisdiction around the nation when it comes to managing increasing prisoner populations.

Labor has no credibility on Corrections. There has not been anything announced in their budget replies. They oppose our plans to build appropriate accommodation for prisoners. They failed to promise even one single additional corrections officer during the election and I heard nothing in the Leader of the Opposition's speech yesterday in that regard. Under Labor, not only would we see more serious offenders out on the street but we would have also have fewer police to protect the community. Labor's policy is effectively to let them off, let them out and leave our ageing infrastructure to rot.

In addition to our significant infrastructure spend, I emphasise the importance of an allocation in the Budget of \$150 000 to deliver Chatter Matters, a pilot program to prisoners in Tasmania which uses evidence-based practices to improve literacy, support positive interpersonal interaction, communication skills, and skills for developing secure attachments with their children. I personally thank Rosie Martin for her continued work with the prisoners in this regard. It is a wonderful program. In the lunch hour I opened the Reintegration Puzzle Conference. Rosie was in the audience and she will be presenting a paper to that national conference. It gave me an opportunity to run through all our rehabilitation programs and our whole-of-community approach to reintegration, which unfortunately I do not have time to run through today. I might come back on the adjournment and address some of those things I spoke about.

While we make no apologies for being tough on serious crime, we want offenders to reintegrate and get their lives back on track and become productive law-abiding members of society who no longer pose a threat to their victims or community safety. That is a strong focus of mine this term.

Moving to the environment, I point out that we have an office of climate change that we fund. I have climate change within my portfolio of Environment. It is an important aspect of the environment, as I am -

**Dr Woodruff** - But we have no minister.

**Ms ARCHER** - I do not need another title. Minister for Environment suits me fine and climate change is part of that.

The Budget locks in this Government's commitment to safeguarding the Tasmanian way of life and protecting our unique natural environment which contributes significantly to our enviable lifestyle and prospering economy. As well as facilitating the implementation of all our election commitments, this Budget also builds on past commitments as well as outlining important



additional funding for our unique and threatened wildlife and important projects and new initiatives that support our environment, which I will try to focus on in the short time available.

This Budget provides considerable extra funding to support our iconic and endangered species, including \$1.8 million over four years to support the Save the Tasmanian Devil program, \$2.17 million for the new purpose-built, orange-bellied parrot captive-breeding facility as well as ongoing additional funding of \$170 000 per annum for its operation. There is funding of \$28 000 for the Raptor Refuge reporting hotline.

There is also another new initiative, which crosses into my Corrections portfolio as well as community service orders. We are utilising this as a partnership between the EPA, Community Corrections and local government to mobilise offenders on community service orders to assist in the removal of rubbish and litter in our parks, reserves and local areas. When I recently visited our office at Community Corrections in Launceston, the feedback from people on community service orders on performing useful and meaningful functions like this in the community is that it has been very well received. I look forward to future reports as to how well this initiative is received.

The Budget includes a range of initiatives to address issues relating to waste and litter including \$60 000 in additional funding for Keep Australia Beautiful and \$110 000 for the development of a smart phone app for the reporting and location of litter hot spots.

Our nation leading climate action plan, Climate Action 21, has a specific funding of \$2.25 million across the forward Estimates for its implementation. There are many other important initiatives in the Budget that support positive environmental outcomes, including: the Weed Action Fund; \$3.7 million; salmonid aquaculture regulation. \$2 million; and considerable additional investment in the management of our parks and reserves, just to name a few.

It is the case that in the environment space Labor has demonstrably failed to produce any substantive policy at the election or in their latest speech yesterday. The only policy they appear to have taken to the election, related to an ill-informed, ill-defined and flawed policy, was that of charging tourists more for entry into our parks and reserves. There is no plan on the other side of the Chamber - namely the Labor Opposition - to address climate change, no plan to protect our iconic and endangered wildlife and an approach to regulating the salmon industry that changes depending on the weather, it seems.

Turning to my Arts portfolio, I call it 'arts' because I do not need the long title of 'cultural and creative industries' but that is what it is. It is such a broad area but the community does identify the arts rather broadly. We do not necessarily need to call it a number of different things. The Hodgman Liberal Government is a strong supporter of the arts through our cultural and creative industries. Our ongoing commitment to this sector is reflected in the 2018-19 state Budget with millions more to be invested in key initiatives over the coming term, which ensures the sector thrives well into the future.

I am a particularly strong supporter of the arts and have been ever since I was a child. It is pleasing to deliver in the 2018-19 state Budget new initiatives as well as ongoing funding. New initiatives include: \$1 million invested into the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery for a new purpose-built permanent children's exhibition; \$400 000 to support philanthropic fundraising efforts for both the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery in Hobart and the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery in Launceston, our state's two key government-owned cultural institutions; \$2 million more in investment in our innovative screen sector through our new Screen Innovation

Fund; \$240 000 to help showcase Tasmanian artists and galleries at contemporary art fairs in key markets; and a significantly increased recurrent expenditure for the Theatre Royal, \$2.8 million, as it takes on additional space and amenity associated with the Hedberg development. I appreciated their positive comments after receiving that news. The Hedberg development is the result of our \$30 million commitment to our partnership with the University of Tasmania.

Also, we must not forget funding for season 3 of *Rosehaven*, a popular series based in Tasmania, employing many Tasmanians. It is a key production supporting our screen industry. We have committed \$500 000 in total to season 3, with \$300 000 already provided last financial year. These commitments are in addition to our considerable ongoing commitments to the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra, to Ten Days on the Island, as well as our key agencies including TMAG, Arts Tasmania and Screen Tasmania.

If Labor is seeking to claim any kind of policy position on the arts, then it is time to come out and state what its position is on all of these matters. I note that the Leader of the Opposition has this portfolio herself, yet I cannot recall any new commitments in this vital sector of our economy and our cultural creativeness. It employs an enormous number of people in Tasmania and is an important industry in itself.

In the small amount of time I have remaining, I will list the developments and other initiatives in the Budget generally across portfolios that benefit Greater Hobart and the northern suburbs, in my electorate of Denison. It is important to highlight some of these because I have heard various interjections and commentary throughout various budget reply contributions this week that there is a lot for the north. There is also a lot for the south.

For Greater Hobart, we have: the re-development of the Royal Hobart Hospital and the Royal Hobart Hospital pharmacy; the Royal Hobart Hospital ward and air-conditioning upgrades; 25 new mental health beds in the south, 60 more nursing graduates in the south; 250 new beds for the Royal Hobart Hospital including a new 16-bed adolescent unit; southern Community Rapid Response; more drug and alcohol rehabilitation beds statewide; and more paramedics across Tasmania. There is: \$2.5 million for Hobart College; \$4.7 million for Lansdowne Crescent Primary School; \$3 million for the Hobart Aquatic Centre hydrotherapy pool; \$300 000 for the North Hobart Football Club infrastructure grant; and a new visitors centre for the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens. I am not going to keep mentioning figures because I will not get through it.

I am very proud of the Elizabeth College skate park infrastructure upgrade commitment; as well as Greater Hobart traffic vision of \$30.8 million including a fifth lane on the Southern Outlet; the Hobart couplet; the Derwent River Ferry Service; planning for the new bus transit centre; establishing the traffic incidents response team; and cycling and pedestrian infrastructure.

For the northern suburbs: a new Bridgewater bridge, including federal funding; re-vitalising Cosgrove High School - that figure is \$5 million to start with in the Budget; indoor multi-sports facility, which I know is anticipated by all the groups wanting to be involved. I welcome their feedback, as would the Minister for Sport and Recreation, Jacqui Petrusma. We will also establish an extension to Drysdale Hospitality School in Claremont; a new Glenorchy ambulance station, a much needed station; and the Glenorchy mountain bike park upgrade. I visited the facility for the purpose of that commitment.

There is a raft of initiatives in the Budget for Denison. It is pleasing to be in the House to speak as a minister and to focus on initiatives across portfolios that mean much to the people of Denison

and the people in southern Tasmania, particularly those facilities in the areas of Health and Education being a the high priority.

I have not touched on the issue of Housing. The Minister for Human Services will speak to that in great detail in his contribution. That is a high priority area of ours, coupled with Health and Education.

There is enormous reform going on in my area of Justice, as I have demonstrated. At the same time, the department is dealing with the National Redress Scheme and the ongoing work and continuation of work needing to be done. Following the initial response to the royal commission's final report that I tabled today, there is an enormous amount of work being done in helping us reach this point. This work is continuing and, in many cases, the same or similar people are carrying out their other roles at the same time. The work put in by our departmental staff has been enormous; the meetings attended by phone or in person, across jurisdictions. This is all to ensure we take a national approach as much as possible to the reforms needed in education, child safety, and the criminal justice system in relation to mandatory reporting and other related criminal offences we have accepted in principle. Important reform is being conducted and continues in Justice and Corrections.

I look forward to debating in further detail those bills already tabled and further bills to come to the House, of which there are many. This Government has an enormous legislative agenda to work through this year, and which is also planned out for the entire four-year term.

This Budget demonstrates our unwavering commitment to community safety, responding to community needs and to community expectations. I urge members on the other side of this House to look seriously at their positions on much needed reforms in the area of Justice and Corrections.

[4.13 p.m.]

**Ms HADDAD** (Denison) - Madam Speaker, I will start by addressing some of the comments of the Attorney-General in her contribution to the budget reply. First, it is unfair to expect the Opposition Leader to mention every single policy area in a 30-minute speech. Attorney-General, with respect, you spent a lot of time talking about Labor in your contribution. You asked some questions about Labor's position on some of the Government's commitments.

First, the redress scheme, which we unreservedly support and have been calling on the Government to sign up to for some time. We congratulated the Government in making that important decision but note that Tasmania is one of the last states to sign up for the redress scheme. We noted also the delay in proclaiming the legislation removing limitation periods allowing people to take civil action through the courts. We congratulated the Government on making that decision too but noted that legislation could have been proclaimed last year.

Yes, Labor supports the redevelopment of the Burnie courts and committed \$15 million during the election campaign to redevelop the Burnie court building to make it safer and more functional. When the Leader of the Opposition was making that announcement she noted the Liberal Government had ignored repeated calls from the region for a refurbishment to be funded in the previous financial year. Then candidate and mayor, now member for Braddon, Anita Dow, said she had been working with regional mayors in that area for many months, calling for the state Government to redevelop those Burnie courts. Planning and construction could already be well underway if the Liberals had listened to the people of the north-west.

As to redevelopment of the Launceston Reception Prison, Labor committed \$40 million to this redevelopment during the election campaign. The commitment from the Government in this year's Budget is for \$45 million out of the \$270 million you have committed to a northern prison. Stage 1 of what you are achieving with the Launceston prison is equivalent to what Labor committed during the election campaign, which was \$40 million for a Launceston Reception Prison upgrade. The Launceston prison is likely 10 or more years away.

We do not and will not support mandatory sentencing. That has been put on the record by Labor members, particularly here in Tasmania, for a long time. Mandatory sentencing is being linked to abhorrent crimes at present. We agree the crimes of sexual assault against children are abhorrent, they are crimes that must be appropriately dealt with and punished. We do not support mandatory sentencing because there is no evidence it reduces crime. There is no evidence it supports victims. It simply gives air time for the Liberals to run a political agenda to say they are tough on crime and that Labor is not. What it does is tell the judiciary that they are wrong.

The groundbreaking and ongoing jury research of the Law Reform Institute, under the leadership of the current Governor, Kate Warner, many years ago showed members of the public who were informed about sentencing issues and who were informed about facts of cases - jurors - showed they did agree with judges. They delivered sentences during that jury study. The jurors involved suggested sentences more lenient than those issued by the judges in those cases. Sex offences were a slight exception in that study, even those jurors involved and who sat on cases to do with sex offending and who said they wanted a harsher sentence than the judges issued did not say mandatory sentencing was the option they preferred. It is a furphy to argue public sentiment is such that we must introduce mandatory sentencing. It is not the case.

This is the first time I have contributed to a budget reply and it is a disappointing Budget to have that first opportunity to contribute to. The Government keeps telling us we are in a time of economic growth, of success and prosperity. The Treasurer has even described us as being in a golden age. We have seen business leaders praise the Budget. They would, because this Budget is one for the big end of town. There have been serious questions raised by the Opposition and the community as to the Government claims they are in surplus. The figures show that the Budget has a net operating balance which is in deficit of over \$96 million this year and will not be in surplus until the fourth year. Our net debt position is expected to deteriorate by well over \$500 million in only four years. The Government disputes this and if that is the case, how much more disappointing is it that we are seeing a Budget that simply does not invest in people?

We all know we have people sleeping rough and sleeping in tents going into a cold and bitter winter. We have a housing crisis facing the Greater Hobart region and the remainder of the state. There are no tangible long-term solutions for housing in this Budget. We hear the Government continuously singing the praises of the Affordable Housing Strategy but there have been only 37 houses built of their own target of 430 to be built by 2019. I do not have faith the 900-odd homes promised for future development in the next four years will eventuate. The clock is ticking. The Government constantly makes more promises that are nothing more than words on paper, and words on paper do not put a roof over people's heads in winter.

The community sector has also been scathing of this Budget. TasCOSS chief executive Kym Goodes said it was a missed opportunity for the Government to rebalance investment and rebuild for the future generations. She said:

When you have a \$161 million surplus, as the Government claims, and people are sleeping rough, it will be hard for people to understand why it is a good budget.

... this budget does not leave a legacy.

Pattie Chugg from Shelter Tasmania, the peak body representing the housing sector, said that the Budget does not go far enough and Tasmania needs to build at least 150 additional affordable homes above the current affordable housing strategy commitments, which are questionable in terms of their delivery, and this Budget simply does not go far enough.

We have the poorest health indicators in the nation. We have for a long time been the poorest, the sickest and the oldest in the nation and we have the highest burden of chronic and preventable disease. Where is the true investment in preventative health initiatives in this Budget? Where is the health promotion funding? We know the Population Health section of the Department of Health and Human Services was gutted by federal and state cuts in recent years and that funding has not been restored.

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare has released data this week about the state of Australia's health which tells us these population indicators continue to decline in Tasmania and that mental health is still one of the biggest causes of death for Australians across all age brackets. We have the second-highest suicide rate in the country and the only one that is growing. While acute spending is welcome, preventative measures achieve so much more. We have the worst health indicators in other areas, including the highest rates of smoking and obesity, the lowest literacy and health literacy rates, and the highest rates of preventable and chronic diseases, and this Government does not invest in long-term programs that will lead to long-term change in these indicators.

The Government will argue they have made investment in these areas in the Budget. They claim record investment in health and mental health. However, the question has to be asked if this investment is just making up for previous cuts where they ripped the guts out of early intervention services in their first term. The Government hopes that people have short memories because one of their first actions when taking the government benches was to rip over \$100 million out of Health. How can they expect the Tasmanian public to believe they are improving their record on Health when we see hospitals in crisis, ambulance ramping, poor elective surgery rates, loss of accreditation in Launceston and Hobart hospitals, coroners' reports blaming the pressure on the hospital system for deaths that could have been avoided, and hardworking and dedicated health professionals and staff across the health system working with some of the lowest morale in Tasmania's history.

The truth is this Budget has been slammed by the health sector. The ANMF as one example, said that there are close to 200 vacant nursing positions across Tasmania and expressed serious concern that the Government would be able to recruit those positions. The loss of accreditation in our major hospitals will seriously hamper the Government's ability to recruit doctors and other workers to those facilities. Very soon we will have the lowest-paid nurses in the nation.

On the issue of wages, the Government has clung stubbornly to their 2 per cent wages cap. They said in the campaign and since that they are committed to bargaining in good faith with workers and unions on public sector wages, but this is simply not true. You cannot claim on the one hand that you will bargain in good faith and on the other firmly set the goal posts. A 2 per cent wage increase will not keep up with the cost of living. In fact, this a real wage cut, as national

wages are expected to grow by up to 3.5 per cent annually. Even the Governor of the Reserve Bank believes wage growth should start with a three and not a two, as we heard the Leader of the Opposition say in her contribution.

We know the Government is trying to punish workers by refusing to scrap the 2 per cent cap and to truly bargain in good faith. We will have the lowest wages in the nation, the lowest paid nurses and the lowest paid teachers. How are we meant to recruit and retain workers to this state when our wages growth is on the decline and at the same time our housing crisis and cost of living skyrocket? If the Treasurer is right in claiming his massive surplus, then why not share this surplus with Tasmanian workers? The Treasurer claims we are in a golden age, but not everybody is benefiting from this golden age we are supposedly in. What we see from the minimal praise given to the Budget, which is only from industry and business groups, is that this is a budget for the big end of town.

In the Opposition Leader's budget reply we heard real vision. We heard about her vision for a state that is a beacon of fairness, where nobody gets left behind. Tasmanians are getting left behind. So many of us are being left behind in what the Treasurer calls our golden age.

In my campaign I met Anna, a young mum who is living at home permanently with her parents in Claremont with her young daughter because she cannot find a place of her own to live. She is one of the lucky ones because she has the support of her parents, but they are packed to the rafters and she desperately needs her own place. Anna has a spotless rental record, an excellent credit rating and regular work. At the time I met her she had applied for over 40 private rentals and still could not find somewhere where she was accepted to live. I also met Susan in Lutana. Susan had worked casually in a retail job for many years but needed permanent work. She had applied for over 80 jobs before managing to secure permanent part-time work in the weeks before I met her. I met a man who was discharged from the hospital only hours after a suicide attempt. I met a woman who was in and out of drug rehabilitation but her real root-cause issue was trying to escape family violence. I met people with children with special needs who have had their access to support in the classroom cut, and parents of children whose classroom sizes have increased because of cuts to teaching staff. These people and so many others are not in a golden age. They are not seeing the benefits of the Treasurer's claimed economic boom.

There were over 200 policies of this Government that were not announced during the election campaign that they now claim a mandate for. This is plain and simple hiding and trickery. The Government is mean and tricky. They hide things, they avoid questioning, they are dishonest, and they are untruthful. Just today we saw the shadow treasurer ask six simple questions of the Treasurer that were simply not answered. They were simple questions that went to the substance of the budget papers. All we heard from the Treasurer was bluff and waffle. As the Opposition Leader said in her reply, this Government has made an art form of secrecy and spin and spends more energy covering up its failures than addressing them in real terms.

We saw this yesterday when the Premier was caught out lying about his vote on the ABC vote at the Liberals' national convention. More time was spent apologising and covering up for that deceit than it would have taken to simply tell the truth. We also know there is a culture in this Government to deny RTI requests.

**Mr BARNETT** - Point of order, Madam Speaker. The member referred to the Premier being caught out lying. That is clearly unparliamentary and she should withdraw it.

**Ms HADDAD** - I withdraw, Madam Speaker.

**Madam SPEAKER** - My understanding is you can refer to the act of lying but you cannot call someone a liar.

**Ms HADDAD** - I certainly did not directly call the Premier a liar but I did say that he was caught out lying.

**Mr Hidding** - It was an error. He was not caught out on anything.

**Ms HADDAD** - It was a pretty questionable error.

**Mr Hidding** interjecting.

**Madam SPEAKER** - Order.

**Ms HADDAD** - None of this would be happening right now, including a front page in *The Examiner* newspaper today, and it would have been much simpler for him to say yes, I was in the room and yes, I supported the vote.

**Mr Barnett** - Just do the right thing.

**Ms HADDAD** - I already withdrew the comment.

This Government has a culture of denying RTI requests and underfunding departments and agencies from running those processes in the way they would like. Yesterday we heard the announcement from Labor of a new transparency committee. I will form part of that committee which will be chaired by my colleague, Jo Siejka, the member for Pembroke. This committee will help keep the Hodgman Government to account and make sure their attempts to avoid scrutiny and hide information from the public will be put under the microscope. I look forward to being part of the committee where we will do what we can to expose things like persistent political interference in right to information processes, and the routine delay or denial of release of key information to the public like dashboard data and statistics. I agree that the public's right to know is a pillar of democracy. This is why I am glad to be part of this committee that will promote transparency in government, openness in government decision-making, and expose the trickery and secrecy of this Government.

We are seeing an extremely right-wing and conservative law and order agenda being pursued by this Government. Already we have seen legislation to reintroduce mandatory minimum sentencing in exactly the same form as it was provided to this parliament in the last parliament and was rejected by the upper House. We know that mandatory sentencing is not supported by the community or the legal fraternity and there is simply no evidence that it works, that it supports victims or that it reduces crime.

Similarly we have seen legislation to remove remissions, something also not supported by the profession. We are also promised legislation reversing the onus of proof for bail applications for certain offences and removing suspended sentences. Altogether this agenda deeply worries me. This punitive approach to law and order is not an approach that supports people.

I recognise that there is always going to be a need to incarcerate some offenders; nobody disputes that. What this suite of measures is actually about is not about protecting the public and it is not about supporting victims. It is about curtailing the judiciary from doing their job, telling judges that they are getting it wrong and it is threatening the separation of powers upon which our system of government rests.

Another fundamental tenet on which our system of government rests is the protection of rights, including our human rights. Part of what these policies do is erode this further. Indeed as Australians we often think certain rights are protected at law when they are not. This is because we do not have legislation protecting human rights in this country or in this state. Protection of our social, civil and political rights should be a fundamental building block of our democracy, not an optional extra. That is why I was proud to move a motion at the Labor Party State Conference last year committing Labor in government to introducing a charter of rights in government. That has now become Labor policy.

The law and order measures we are seeing now are often implemented by ultra-conservative governments. They are often implemented and then wound back, because they do not work. They do not lead to a reduction in crime and they do not help victims. I am a supporter of early intervention programs that stop the cycle of crime early. Programs mean that young people are put on the right track early and offenders are given real opportunities to rehabilitate and avoid re-offending.

In the election campaign Labor committed to delivering programs to support young people to transition from detention and on bail. Our policy recognised we have a high rate of youth offending in Tasmania and that research consistently shows youth detention does not effectively deter criminal offending. We recognise in our policy that early intervention and diversion programs are shown to be more effective at reducing youth offending.

Similarly, when it comes to adult offending it is vital that programs offered through Community Corrections and through sentencing options like specialist court lists operating in the Magistrates Court are available. Being able to sentence offenders to diversionary programs, like drug and alcohol or mental health treatment, is far more productive and has a more lasting effect than punitive policies which say 'lock them up and throw away the key'.

In the campaign Labor committed to expanding diversionary courts to the Supreme Court and increasing the number of caps to accessing these programs. These problem-solving courts allow courts to address the root causes of crime with the offender and holds them to account. Those root causes of crime are often deeply embedded in inequality and the results of inequality, like low literacy, low incomes, poor health and poor mental health. Yet from this Government we see policies that say 'lock them up and throw away the key'.

We see funding for a new prison. You know what they say, 'build it and they will come'. Tasmanians do not really want to go down this path; a path like America's where we see prisons, including privately operated prisons, packed to the rafters where one in 10 adult citizens is in prison. Building more or bigger prisons is not the best way to keep our community safe. We need evidence-based approaches to justice that reduce crime and rehabilitate offenders. The Breaking the Cycle framework commenced under Labor is aimed at providing better support to offenders during their time in the justice system and back into the community, including rehabilitation. Labor committed in the campaign to ensuring that the work of this framework would be continued and would



encompass youth justice and adult offenders too. Only by employing a preventative approach will crime reduce and victims be truly supported and social outcomes improve.

We are committed to restoring funding to the Legal Aid and Community Legal Centres, which have suffered federal cuts. I note that the Government has not restored this funding in this year's Budget. Not only are we embarking on a throw-away-the-key law and order agenda, but we are also making sure people who do face the courts will have further obstacles put in their way as they will not always be able to gain legal representation.

Madam Speaker, on our beautiful national parks and World Heritage areas I want to see a Tasmania where we can enjoy our natural resources without them being trashed or ruined. The CPSU has a campaign right now that says our national parks are over-loved, but under-funded. This is right. We need to know that any developments in our World Heritage areas and national parks are appropriate, sympathetic to the area that they are in and, most importantly, developed in a way that is open and transparent, that allows public comment, true community consultation and appeals to proposed developments.

I am not confident that the measures put forward by this Government to develop in world-class World Heritage areas and national parks achieves these aims. Indeed, the Budget outlines a raft of new developments in our wilderness. While Labor supports development that increases and allows access to our national parks and World Heritage areas, I want to know that these developments will be done in way that consults with community and protects the park they are in. Good parks development must not only be sympathetic to the areas they are in, but they must also be low impact. They must not trample and change the very things that make those places special. They must include sufficient funding for staff for maintenance and protection to ensure that our wild places do not become bushwalking highways.

In conclusion, this is a budget for the big end of town. It is not a budget that supports people or puts people at the heart of the decisions made by government. We heard the Leader of the Opposition talk about Jim Bacon's bold vision and enduring legacy being a change in how we think about ourselves as Tasmanians. I believe Jim Bacon made us a proud people and an ambitious people. We heard her rightly say that the eyes of the nation and the eyes of the world are now on us. We need to be proud of what people see and I am not confident that this Budget achieves that.

[4.36 p.m.]

**Ms COURTNEY** (Bass - Minister for Primary Industries and Water) - Madam Speaker, the Hodgman Liberal Government is delivering for Tasmania. I begin by taking this opportunity to commend the Treasurer on the work he has done, not just in this Budget, but over the past four years. The efforts that he has gone to build a framework, a sustainable state budget, that is delivering confidence to the rest of the community has to be commended. Tasmanians have recognised this. At the state election they backed our track record. This Budget is an endorsement of their decision. We are delivering on our commitments in full and we are continuing to build Tasmania's future.

As Minister for Primary Industries and Water, I am proud of this Budget and what it is delivering for our regional and rural communities in Tasmania. The Budget handed down last week proves that there is no bigger supporter of rural and regional Tasmania than the Liberal Government. The Hodgman majority Liberal Government understands that agriculture is a key pillar of our economy and we will continue to back the men and women who are working across our primary industry sector. We have a clear target to grow the annual farm-gate value of the agricultural sector

by \$210 billion by the year 2050. That it is why we are delivering for the sector with an extra \$70 million of additional funding committed in this Budget. Our comprehensive Agrigrowth Food Plan for 2018-2023 recognises the importance of the agricultural community to our state's continued growth and a significant investment that the Tasmanian Government is making in this sector.

We know that a strong agricultural sector delivers jobs and opportunity across every region. This budget delivers across the board in support of our farmers from our major dairy, beef, fruit and vegetable producing sectors to our smaller industries, such as organics, beekeepers, wool and the ever-growing wine-making industry. This Budget is about supporting our farmers on the land, and also recognises the importance of strong farming families, support programs and investing in the people who are our future. This is why we have invested in biosecurity, marketing, research development and extension, farm energy, as well as our rural financial support services and other community organisations.

We also recognise that for our agricultural sector to continue to grow, we need to look to the future. That is why we have invested in supporting the farmers of tomorrow through continued investment in our agricultural tertiary sector. Delivering on our comprehensive Agrigrowth Food Plan included a number of initiatives in this year's Budget. We have committed more than \$4 million to work with farmers, processors and agribusiness on practical industry development strategies to improve productivity and profitability throughout the supply chain in the red meat, dairy, wine, fruit and vegetable, honey, hemp and organic sectors. We are investing \$400 000 through Skills Tasmania to continue the wool harvesting training program.

Furthermore, we are funding two agri-growth liaison officers based in the north, combined with a new primary producers hotline to provide easier access to the department's services. This is in addition to the \$2.4 million to support the move of 100 positions within DPIPW to Launceston and Devonport. We recognise it is very important for the people who are working in our primary industry sector to be close to the men and women within the department who are supporting them.

Additionally, we are providing support for rural financial counselling services and farm business mentoring developed by Rural Business Tasmania, as well as increased funding for Rural Youth and Tasmanian Women in Agriculture, two local organisations that do tremendous jobs supporting grassroots communities across Tasmania.

This Budget also provides additional funding for the Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture to support a new agricultural innovation fund with specific industry-aligned priority research programs, plus the allocation of \$7 million to modernise crown and TIA research farm assets. We have listened to industry and understand that they want to see what we are doing as a government and supporting is aligned with industry objectives. This increased funding to TIA, along with our modernisation of assets around Tasmania, will help underpin that research into the future. Furthermore, additional funding of \$60 000 per year will assist students who would not otherwise have access to higher education to undertake an associate degree in agriculture at the University of Tasmania.

We are investing into more practical on-ground Landcare works to sustain our productive soils and farmland, rivers, biodiversity and other natural resources. I have had many conversations with the broader rural and regional communities about this, both in the lead-up to the election and since coming into government again. Farmers recognise that this is important for their future as well as NRM groups around Tasmania and individual Landcare groups that are investing in their

communities and spending their time and resources to help make their communities sustainable. We are backing them in the work they are doing.

Irrigation is transforming Tasmanian agriculture and regional communities and we are delivering on our commitment of providing \$70 million in state government funding towards tranche 3 of the irrigation program. Tasmanian Irrigation is currently progressing feasibility studies for potential tranche 3 projects in consultation with farmers, a critical first step as we develop a business case for federal funding.

The Hodgman Liberal Government is the most strident supporter of our farmers and primary production sector and we are delivering on our plan to grow the value of agriculture to \$10 billion by 2050. The Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association appreciates what we are doing. In response to the Budget last week, the TFGA said that the strength of our contribution to agriculture further highlighted a commitment to the sector. To quote:

The raft of initiatives announced today will not only support agriculture but ensure its sustainability and assist the growth of regional communities.

Furthermore, Peter Skellern, the CEO, went on to say the following day that the Government genuinely understands the importance of agriculture from an economic point of view.

Agriculture represents over 7 per cent of gross product. There is no other state that has that level of economic input from the agricultural sector. I recognise this every day in my role, travelling around the community and seeing not only the economic contribution that primary industries makes to our state but also the social vibrancy and community impact this has to strengthen our entire state.

Madam Speaker, I am sure you will agree that these comments in light of our commitments is a clear endorsement of this quality Budget and how this Government has in the past and will continue to stand up for regional communities. The Hodgman Liberal Government is delivering on our plan for the state's seafood sector, with \$12.7 million in additional funding over four years. We are supporting our commercial fishers and delivering practical strategies to grow the value of our world-class, wild-caught and farmed seafood sector. We are investing more in today's fisheries and also looking to the future with programs that support long-term and sustainable fisheries management which are essential to growing the economies and jobs in regional areas.

The initiatives in the 2018-19 state Budget include funding to assist the Tasmanian Seafood Industry Council and improve safety for the commercial fisheries and marine farming sectors. We are providing \$300 000 to extend the east coast rock lobster translocation program which is helping to build rock lobster biomass to benefit commercial and our recreational fishers. There is a further \$5 million to fund the development of the Fisheries Integrated Licensing Management System which includes digital licensing, real-time transfer of fisheries data and streamlining of licensing quota management processes.

We are establishing an abalone reinvestment fund by diverting a portion of existing royalties to support industry-led projects to tackle long-spine sea urchin and programs to increase abalone stock. We are also providing an extension of the Abalone Industry Development Trust Fund for projects to develop new markets, economic analysis and maintaining the sustainability of the abalone fishery. We are supporting the transition of our shellfish quality assurance program to the new Tasmanian Shellfish Market Access Program, or ShellMAP, and this will better support

industry to manage access as well as food safety. We are also providing funding to enhance real-time monitoring for the oyster industry.

I mentioned before the importance of research and development across our primary industries sector, and this is continuing across the fisheries area, with further funding for the Institute of Marine and Antarctic Studies. This extra funding will provide additional research into fishing and marine farming industries as well as ongoing support for the assessment of new and sustainable fisheries opportunities.

The salmon industry is a key part our future and a primary driver of jobs and economic vibrancy across Tasmania. I am very proud we are delivering on our sustainable industry growth plan for the salmon industry which was launched by my predecessor, Jeremy Rockliff. The plan sets out a pathway for our biggest primary industry that provides opportunity for further growth, ensures that regulations keep step with industry development and provides confidence to the Tasmanian community.

This Budget has received particular praise from industry and stakeholder groups. I share with the House today some comments from the Tasmanian Seafood Industry Council who say the additional funding for the sector will provide significant financial stimulus that will support jobs and regional economies while ensuring the long-term sustainable management of our marine resources. It highlights the Government's confidence in Tasmania's \$925 million seafood industry. The council is enthusiastic about the \$5 million to fund the ongoing development of the Fisheries Integrated Licensing Management System, saying it will:

... transition our wild-catch fisheries to the digital age through the development of automated real-time data transfer. Transitioning to the digital age through utilisation of already available technologies will allow the automatic sending and entry of data, which in turn will allow for the near real-time assessment of our fish stocks.

Further, TSIC went on to say:

The benefit for the regulator, science and industry is one of the most significant advancements in the management of our marine resources.

Seafood Industry Council CEO Julian Harrington went on to speak about the importance of the proud workforce within the industry and the Government's support of them. He said -

As we transition to a new era of seafood operations it is vital we consider physical and mental safety. The Council is very thankful for the allocation of \$150 000 over three years for TSIC to improve maritime safety and further allocations to Rural Alive and Well Tasmania to support mental health and wellbeing in our industry.

The cornerstone of a strong primary industry sector is a strong biosecurity system. This is why this Budget has seen an additional commitment of \$8.6 million over four years to strengthen our biosecurity system to help protect and grow the state's agricultural industry. We have consistently delivered additional funding for biosecurity over the past four budgets and we are continuing to make significant investment. Biosecurity is vitally important to protect Tasmania's reputation for quality primary produce and our natural environment, and our relatively pest and disease-free status

is a true competitive advantage for our farmers in the marketplace. The Government is committed to ensuring Tasmania's biosecurity system continues to be responsive to the modern risks and challenges of increased trade, to ensure Tasmania's place in a global marketplace and to manage more visitors coming to visit our beautiful island home.

The biosecurity investment outlined in the Budget includes \$2 million over four years for truck and machinery wash down stations. Partnering with farmers, agribusiness and local government, this funding will build a network of wash down stations to improve biosecurity and farm hygiene, by disposing of waste and reduce potential spread of disease and weeds while improving road safety. Furthermore, there is funding to expand Biosecurity Tasmania's collaboration with industry groups and farmers to plan for and manage post-border biosecurity risks and to support on-farm biosecurity hygiene strategies.

We are also boosting biosecurity on our Bass Strait islands. We know King and Flinders Islands are gateways to Tasmania and additional biosecurity resources on each island will support landholders to tackle weeds, pests and other issues affecting agricultural production and local security priorities.

The Budget confirms an expenditure of \$5.6 million over four years from the new \$20 million Biosecurity Emergency Response and Research Fund to meet the costs associated with the current eradication of Queensland fruit fly and future biosecurity risks. This includes: three additional biosecurity inspectors to target high-risk produce coming into the state as well as a new specialist fruit fly adviser within Biosecurity Tasmania; a new industry collaboration role in Biosecurity Tasmania to work with growers, farmers, industry groups and the wider Tasmanian community on communications, consultation and education programs to prepare and respond to fruit fly, other potential trade-relates pests and improved biosecurity generally; and recurrent funding to participate in the Fruit Fly SITplus Program led by Horticulture Innovation Australia, ensuring Tasmania has access to sterile insect techniques should they be required. We remain committed to working closely with all primary industry stakeholders to identify further opportunities, to maintain our state's strong biosecurity system and to protect and prepare Tasmania from future pests and diseases.

The Hodgman Liberal Government is working with our stakeholders to improve the long-term agricultural outlook. We are cutting red tape, growing markets and investing in future generations. We have heard industry groups are responding positively to the state Budget and it is worth highlighting to the House the recent Rural Confidence Survey. The Rabobank survey shows that 24 per cent of Tasmanian farmers are looking to increase investment in their businesses compared to 19 per cent nationally. Plans for increased investment include more live stock, new machinery, adopting new technology and on-farm and irrigation infrastructure. The future is looking even brighter with a third of Tasmanian farmers expecting the sector to keep improving in the next 12 months.

It is apt to thank and pay tribute to the former primary industries minister. I was fortunate to come into the role with such a strong predecessor, who had taken a comprehensive suite of policies to support primary industries to the election. I thank Jeremy Rockliff and the work he did as primary industries minister. I have big shoes to fill and I am working hard.

Turning my attention to the racing industry, we understand the importance of the racing industry to communities across Tasmania, for the economic output and the strong role it plays in the social fabric of regional communities. The 2018-19 Budget reflects our priorities to progress our comprehensive commitments to Tasmania's racing industry. The Tasmanian Government is

honouring the funding deed currently in place with Tasracing and, as has been the case over the past four years, there will be no reduction in funding for the racing industry. The budget also includes initiatives such as boosting prize money to the owners of winning, locally-bred horses, with funding towards thoroughbred and harness breeding programs.

Animal welfare and racing integrity remain important focus, with \$550 000 over four years to create new steward cadetship positions in the Office of Racing Integrity to attract and retain new people in steward positions and further strengthen integrity functions.

**Ms O'Connor** - It is taxpayer-subsidised cruelty to animals.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** - Order. Ms Courtney has the call.

**Ms COURTNEY** - New funding will also be allocated to assist greyhound re-homing efforts, which are increasingly in demand. Due to Labor's financial mismanagement, Tasracing has been subject to an efficiency dividend equivalent to approximately \$300 000 per year. As the Hodgman Liberal Government has worked with Tasracing to achieve long-term sustainability, Tasracing has improved business performance and has a new ability to invest and grow the industry. In recognition of this, we are removing -

**Ms O'Connor** - Mention animal welfare, have a crack at it. It is your portfolio responsibility.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** - Order, Ms O'Connor. If you do not wish to listen I ask you to leave the Chamber.

**Ms O'Connor** - Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I am listening very carefully.

**Ms COURTNEY** - I have already mentioned animal welfare, Ms O'Connor.

In recognition of this, we are removing the Labor-imposed efficiency dividend, ensuring an additional \$300 000 per year.

As the member for Bass, I am excited about many of the initiatives contained in this Budget that are delivering for my community. I, along with my colleagues, continue to consult widely with our community and respond with quality actions that deliver meaningful outcomes to the quality of life of northern Tasmanians. I am excited we are progressing the \$20 million Legana Primary School development because Legana has been identified in the top 10 areas in Tasmania with the largest and fastest population growth. We have recognised the need for a new kindergarten to year 6 primary school and we are working with the community and West Tamar Council. I thank the council for the collaborative way we have worked on this and am looking forward to this project coming to fruition.

Among health sector initiatives, we are beginning the \$87 million redevelopment of the Launceston General Hospital with funding of \$37 million. We have budgeted for an additional 40 nursing graduates for northern Tasmania. This is in addition to the new paramedics we will see. These investments are not only for Launceston. We will invest \$500 000 in upgrading health professional accommodation on Flinders Island, as well as investing in Community Transport Services Tasmania pilot program on Flinders.

The Government understands the importance of sport and recreation in building strong communities through clubs and associations. I am very proud of a number of local groups that have been and continue to be assisted.

The YMCA at Kings Meadows plays a very important role in our community, supporting older people in the community, as well as young people. I commend all the people, including Jodie Johnson at the YMCA, for the awesome work they do in their community. We are very excited to be able to partner with the organisation to help them deliver a safer pathway access to their facility in Kings Meadows to allow young children as well as older participants arrive at the door safely.

Our Ticket to Play initiative will see \$3 million committed to subsidised sporting registration for around 30 000 children and young people whose parents or guardians have a health care or concession card. I was very proud to join the Premier earlier this year or late last year at the NTCA ground for the launch of the Levelling the Playing Field program which will see \$10 million investment over two years to facilitate increased female participation by building new or upgraded facilities to ensure our girls and women have access to the same facilities and opportunities as men.

We are supporting the Reimagining the Gorge project, designed to make this iconic natural attraction in northern Tasmania a night-time drawcard. This will produce a light show based around the stunning cliffs and basins and will be a unique night-time experience to help grow visitor numbers to northern Tasmania. It is very exciting that the Cataract Gorge will play host to the Qantas Australian Tourism Gala Awards in early 2019. I cannot think of a more spectacular venue than our Cataract Gorge.

I mentioned before the extensive infrastructure investment we are making in schools and hospitals. Further to that, this Budget is delivering on local and visiting northern Tasmanian road users to ensure we have \$53 million towards the Launceston and Tamar Valley traffic vision. This will include work for the Mowbray interconnector, the Charles Street Bridge and Invermay Road network, the planning for the new Tamar Bridge crossing, as well as the Batman Highway shoulder widening. We are investing more than \$7 million to improve state roads including investment between Tomahawk and Gladstone and Prossers Forest Road. This infrastructure investment will extend to the northern prison, the largest infrastructure investment ever seen in northern Tasmania which will create thousands of direct and indirect jobs.

I am proud to be part of a strong, stable Liberal majority government. We have delivered during our last four years of government and we will continue to deliver. We have clarity of purpose, we work with our stakeholders, and we deliver on our commitments. I commend the Treasurer on the work he has done in delivering another budget for Tasmania that will see businesses, agriculture and the entire community confident about their future across Tasmania.

[5.03 p.m.]

**Ms DOW** (Braddon) - Mr Deputy Speaker, Tasmania - the golden era - the lowest GDP per capita of any state, the lowest average weekly wages of any state, the poorest health outcomes of any state, the poorest rental affordability and the poorest educational outcomes. Despite this, Tasmania's economy is performing above trend on most measures but many Tasmanians are being left behind.

Our economy grew by 3.5 per cent in 2017-18. While Tasmania's short-term prospects have improved, there has been little change in any of its traditionally weak structural measures. The Government has enjoyed significantly more revenue over the last four years than expected and

forecasts a massive \$1.1 billion more across the Budget and forward Estimates than what was expected a year ago. Now is the time for us to plan for growth and invest in essential services. Greater collaboration across agency and a truly whole-of-government and community approach to the systematic challenges Tasmanians face is required now.

Some, but not all, members of our communities in Tasmania are reaping the rewards of Australia's positive macroeconomic growth. The national economic profile has benefited Tasmania as an export-based economy and through growth in our domestic and international visitor economy. With the current Australian dollar sitting at 74 US cents, it is good news for Tasmanian traditional industries such as manufacturing, mining, agriculture and forestry. In more recent times, the forest industry has been buoyed by greater access to markets through FSC certification.

This is evident in my electorate of Braddon, but there is more work to do to address the structural changes in our regional economy and the change in the types of employment opportunities available to our people.

Technology and access to the best technology in regional Tasmania is important when we look at new ways to provide access to health services, engage with education to support new businesses, attract residents from interstate and undertake world-class research and development and product development. This alignment with superior technology needs to be synonymous with the Tasmanian brand.

The Government claims to have fixed the Budget, but there is an underlying net operating balance deficit of \$95.7 million this year and this is set to continue over the next three years. A significant component of revenue increases to the state can be attributed to federal payments for specific purposes or the GST. This further highlights Tasmania's vulnerability to changes in the GST. This Budget is built on uncertainty and any change to the distribution of the GST will hurt not just this Budget but every other budget to come. This will impact on government services and frontline health workers. The current assurances from this Government are unproven, and federal and state Labor stand side by side to defend the services, not just infrastructure projects, that Tasmanians rely upon every day.

It is true that this Budget invests heavily in infrastructure which should create more jobs in the short term, so let us take this opportunity to ensure we have the prescribed numbers of apprentices employed on these government projects, as per government policy. Let us also take this opportunity to encourage more young people to take on an apprenticeship in order to address the generational change we are experiencing in our workforce. In looking further at the incentives in the Budget to drive economic growth, I would like to understand better the evidence base associated with these initiatives and how many young and older Tasmanians have been successfully supported into apprenticeships and traineeships in Tasmania under these initiatives.

The training infrastructure details in the Budget, particularly the Trade Training Centre of Excellence, calls into question why such a facility would be provided in the south of the state and not in the north to provide more equitable access for all people around the state wanting to access that training facility. During the election campaign, Labor was very conscious of this and committed to the development of a welding simulator at TMEC in Burnie to enable 30 additional apprentices each year to upskill with the specialist certification required to take new work, particularly for the defence industry. A recent visit to some advanced manufacturing businesses in Burnie reaffirmed the need for this skill set. Will the Government support such initiatives in the north-west ongoing?



I am looking forward to playing a key role in Labor's industry advisory councils which will collaboratively work with industry, union and educators, to examine workforce shortages and strategically plan for future growth and infrastructure requirements in Tasmania. The public infrastructure outlined in this Budget needs to be undertaken alongside a push by government to increase investment in the private sector, which is incredibly important for the Tasmanian economy.

There is also a need for economic development planning across the regions of Tasmania led by government working with local communities to plan together and identify opportunity. Currently there is far too much duplication in this space and the roles and responsibilities of local government and our regional entities are not clear, and there are many examples of wasted resource, effort and lack of coordination.

It is also important that this private sector growth and the policy developed to encourage this focuses on an approach to decentralising economic activity out of the south. Other countries around the world do this very well. I believe that an attempt is being made by the Government to do this in its regional relocation package for interstate businesses. However more needs to be done to encourage Tasmanian businesses to relocate or be supported to establish in regional Tasmania.

In regional Tasmania our small businesses are important to our local economy. Small gains in employment in small business are very valuable in regional communities. In my role as shadow small business minister I am learning more about the support that we should be providing for small business and the importance of potential employees being work ready. I am interested in how successful this initiative is, and the other small business initiatives outlined in this Budget as they are evaluated through this term of government.

I am pleased to note the Government's investment in Veterans Affairs. I am enjoying working with the Veterans Affairs community in Tasmania, looking at the issues our veterans are facing every day in our community, including mental health issues and access to services, and unemployment. I will continue to liaise with them and hold the Government to account on the requirement for additional services to our veterans' communities.

Tasmania does better when all Tasmanians do well. Bold reform is required in Tasmania to take Tasmania's living standards to the next level. This was highlighted in the Deloitte presentation at the budget dinner I attended in Burnie on Friday night. I draw the House's attention to page 31 of budget paper 1 and the commentary about the labour market in Braddon. Much has been said during my time in this House about the labour market in Braddon and the influence this Liberal Government has had on jobs in Braddon. I quote from the budget papers:

Employment growth has been strongest in Hobart and the south-east over the past five years, increasing by around 5 per cent over the past 12 months. This experience in Launceston and the north-east has been more mixed, but there has been a return in employment growth in the past year at close to the rate in the state's south. In response labour market participation has been increasing in these regions, constraining the decline in the unemployment rate.

By contrast the west and north-west experienced increasing employment up to mid-2016 and rising labour market participation until late 2015. These have since been easing. The participation rate in the west and north-west is now significantly below the rate in the other two regions. The varying economic conditions have also been reflected in population movements, as explained in more detail below,

with population growth highest in the state's south and lowest in the west and north-west, including several years of population decline.

Much of the decline in the unemployment rate in the west and the north-west therefore has been due to a decline in the working age population and the participation rate.

This highlights a number of issues. The first is the population decline in my region. More needs to be done to look at how we can decentralise our population, our economic activity and basic service delivery, health and education out into the regions. Primary health care, preventative care and community aged care services offer a tremendous employment opportunity in regional Tasmania. I am interested in any new initiatives that the Government has introduced to ensure this decentralisation and to seize new job opportunities. This decline in participation rate is significant and means that we need to do more to support our people and prepare them for work in regional Tasmania. Greater access to skills and training, transport to and from work, and other social impediments to work are real factors. I am interested to watch the progress of the jobs program being rolled out by the Government on the west coast in partnership with TasCOSS and the TCCI to determine if this model is effective and responsive to local needs.

I will talk about the election commitments in the Budget and what is being offered and delivered to Braddon. The upgraded Burnie Court complex is a project that I advocated for some time in a previous role. I was very pleased that Labor committed to it during the last election. This is important. It is not just about improving the configuration of the building and updating of very outdated court complex, it is about making sure that all people across the region have equitable access to a Supreme Court facility that includes people in Circular Head and on the west coast. It also means that we can keep the local economy going with people from the legal professions still choosing to live and work on the north-west coast and ensuring that we can continue to provide specialist legal services to people on the north-west coast by having up-to-date facilities. It is also about protecting those who are attending the court and ensuring their safety is foremost.

The other project I want to talk about, which is not in Braddon but is important to the electorate of Braddon and important to decentralising the visitor economy into regional Tasmania, is the redevelopment of Cradle Mountain. That is a project that I very strongly advocated for in my previous role as mayor of Burnie with my other fellow mayors as part of the alliance of the Cradle Coast councils. It has taken some time for this funding to come to fruition from both the federal and state Liberal governments. It is an important project. It will be, as others have said, an iconic development for the north-west coast and add greater value to what is already a very beautiful part of Tasmania which we want more people to be able to enjoy.

There has been discussion in the House about our commitment to the redevelopment of the Penguin School. During the election we committed to that. A couple of other candidates and I met a couple of times with the school association and understand the importance of that project to the school community.

We committed to the Burnie Ambulance Station. It is important that the antenatal clinic at the North West Regional Hospital is also included. We are awaiting the outcome of the review of the consolidation of maternity services at the North West Regional Hospital in Burnie, which has been undertaken to see how it could be improved and to identify some of the weaknesses in the current model. We look forward to the outcomes of that report.

I note the improvements in infrastructure at the Mersey Community Hospital which hopefully will lead to the instatement of those services which have been promised through the white paper and health reform in Tasmania around rehabilitation services and palliative care being provided out of the Mersey Community Hospital.

I have a question about the Dutch meal support package. Who from the Government of the local members in Braddon will be coordinating the support package? It is an important economic development project for Circular Head. I know that Mrs Rylah, the former member for Braddon, was heavily involved in that project. We encourage the Government not to lose momentum and appoint someone to that role. It is very important to keep it moving.

Labor made a number of commitments during the election for road upgrades. Many of those are duplicated in the Budget. There is the upgrade of the Wynyard Yacht Club which is a very dated facility. That area on the river at Wynyard is simply beautiful and has so much greater potential through the improvements to infrastructure that are proposed. We certainly supported that project and its importance.

I turn to the next term of parliament and Labor's work in Opposition which I can guarantee to those on the other side will be anything but lazy, as has been said this morning in the House. We want Tasmania to be a beacon of fairness. I am passionate about viewing the best possible future for Tasmania as are my fellow members of the Labor PLP. This means investing in our people and essential services. We believe that a fairness agenda is a good economic agenda. If people are healthy and well, they can participate fully in their community and get a good job and then the economy does well.

Strategic direction and planning is very important. I have seen firsthand the benefits of planning and consultation with stakeholders, planning together in my community in Burnie. Strategic is a word that describes very well the leadership of previous Labor governments in Tasmania. Examples include infrastructure and regional economic development planning. I am pleased to be part of a team that wants to learn from the expertise and lived experience of the Tasmanian community and I am looking forward to getting out and around the state to the forums we will host in 15 suburbs and towns to seek out Tasmanians' views and how they want to work with Tasmanian Labor into the future.

We will not be resting on our laurels in opposition. We are reinvigorated and prepared to work hard in preparation for a return to government in 2022. I will play a personal role in the waste watch committee. In my previous role in local government, we worked with and supported council staff to look at and identify efficiencies within our organisation without cutting service delivery and the core roles of our council. I am looking forward to working with Jen Butler and Shane Broad and our union colleagues to better understand the Tasmanian public service and sector, their ideas for improvements and efficiencies and, more importantly, improved service delivery in Tasmania. Our transparency committee will further our work to hold the Government to account during this term of parliament and shine a spotlight on the current culture of this Government.

I take this opportunity to reaffirm Labor's commitment to bipartisan approach to education and the importance of this and our commitment to healthy communities through the establishment of a healthy communities commission. Improved educational attainment and health outcomes are critical to the long-term economic prosperity of our state. A bipartisan approach to education in this state through the early years, secondary school and adulthood is required, making education an important part of everyday life in Tasmania.

Local government has a very important role to play in communities around increasing the value of education and addressing many of the complex social issues our communities face. Maybe in the future when the roles and responsibilities of levels of government are reviewed, there will be a greater role and more funding made available to local government to undertake this important work.

When it comes to housing, a roof over your head and a safe and secure home should be a basic right for every Tasmanian. Labor acknowledges the sharing economy as a contributing factor to the housing shortage in Tasmania and is exploring models in place interstate and overseas to address current affordable housing shortages, particularly in southern Tasmania. Our commitment this week to the inclusion of introductory inclusionary zoning is one example of this.

Yesterday I spoke about the importance of primary and preventative health care, particularly in rural and regional Tasmania where people must travel long distances to access tertiary hospitals and specialist medical care. In regional and rural Tasmania and in Braddon we have poorer health outcomes and different socio-economic factors influence the wellbeing of our communities. This week we have highlighted that the Government promised \$757 million for Health at the state election, but the budget outlines just \$370 million, with \$6 million being allocated to the Healthy Tasmania strategic plan, which is aimed at improving health outcomes and population health indicators in Tasmania.

What does this Budget provide for those people living on the west coast who are geographically isolated and would like better access to aged care and hospice-based community and residential care services? Access to a permanent GP is also an issue for many of the elderly community members I have recently met with in Strahan. Labor committed during the election to an improved patient transport service for the west coast, working with current community providers in the provision of out-of-hours transport services. What now for those patients who are discharged from hospital with no transport home after hours?

In concluding, I reiterate that this is a big-spending budget, but it has missed the opportunity to invest in important essential services for the future and does not outline bold plans for reform. Labor is committed to holding the Government to account and working hard in opposition. This Budget and the Government's fiscal position is uncertain given the unknown impact of pending changes to the GST and our reliance on federal funding. Many projects are pushed out years, so we will wait to see if these infrastructure projects are indeed delivered on time. I look forward to the budget Estimates process and I thank you, Madam Speaker, for the opportunity to speak on this bill.

[5.24 p.m.]

**Mr JAENSCH** (Braddon - Minister for Human Services) - Madam Speaker, it is an honour to speak on this fifth Hodgman Liberal Government Budget, this time as Minister for Human Services, Minister for Housing, and Minister for Planning. I congratulate the Treasurer on his excellent fifth Budget and I thank my predecessors in my portfolio areas for their work in establishing the foundations of the portfolios I have inherited, the spadework they have done that I will be involved with delivering the goods from, so to Mrs Petrusma, who is in the Chamber today, and Mr Gutwein, my gratitude and thanks to them for their assistance to me in moving into my new roles.

Madam Speaker, Tasmania is indeed a very different place now to what it was five years ago when we first came to government. It is much stronger, prouder and more confident than it used to be. Our economy is one of the strongest in the country, our budget is under control and we are able to choose to invest more into essential services and long-term plans for our state.

This 2018-19 Budget delivers on all of the commitments we made under our plan to build our future and since being in government we have added more than 13 400 jobs to Tasmania's economy and community. More than that, I believe we have generated and fostered a confidence in Tasmania that has been missing for quite some time, not only in the business community which is measured and reported nationally under a range of measures, but in Tasmanians themselves. That is also not just in Hobart where the MONA effect, tourism and the cranes on the skyline are evident to anyone everyday, but also in regional areas like Braddon, where I live, where new jobs are emerging in industries that people know and trust and see being transformed and reinvented to modern versions of their old selves. Furthermore, people can see the pathway being prepared for them to participate in the new version of their old economy.

When our population in a region such as Braddon looks around for evidence of economic growth, things like the number of trucks on the road, the traffic going through our ports and the new products emerging from the Elphinstone Group manufacturing facilities on our coast give them real confidence, more than any statistics or claims governments might make. They see evidence of industries they have grown up with that have a new lease on life and that are relevant and competitive again in the global economy. Then they see the extension of their local high school to years 11 and 12 and the university moving into their city with a new offering for them that might mean they have a better chance than anyone in their extended families in the past of participating in a knowledge-based economy based on new versions of old industries they grew up with.

That is a palpable change in the Braddon I arrived in 18 years ago, when our economists were talking down our region's prospects because it was based on old resource-based sectors. We are turning the tables on them and surprising the world with the very high-quality, sophisticated, high-value new versions of those industries. For example, the manufacturing that we once hosted is now calling itself advanced manufacturing and is producing very small-volume, high-value bespoke solutions to fussy customers all over the world who are prepared to pay for the quality and the know-how that we have.

In agriculture we are seeing entirely new forms of agriculture that are requiring us to rewrite our planning system to accommodate them - in controlled environment agriculture, for example. The forestry industry, which others have referred to here, has had a very political and divisive history. New forms of engineered lumber products are emerging, which could be replacing steel and concrete in major construction projects all over the world are coming from our forests and our port. These are all the sorts of things making people in my region confident.

They see their Government, while some might deride the notion of being open for business, being prepared to work with proponents and with businesses from around the world to see our resources put to their highest use and to give our local people opportunities to participate in that economy. I am proud of a Government that has been part of that transformation. Whilst it is not Government alone that does it, we need to provide an environment in which people are prepared to invest and to work with us to see these opportunities come to reality. That is what we have seen happen and there is no suggestion it is going to end any time soon.

With a growing population and a growing economy there are pressures and changes and we need to adapt to them as a state. In my portfolio of Housing we have an acute example of that. There have always been people under housing stress and probably always will be. There have always been people who are homeless for a wide range of reasons, of which the availability of suitable housing may be one factor among many. When a population grows quickly and faster than the supply of new housing, very soon all the capacity in that system is used up. We start to see

people displaced, dislocated and put under housing stress. That pressure is evident at every level in the market and we need to respond to it.

It is why our Government, in its first months, commenced the development of Tasmania's first ever long term, 10-year Affordable Housing Strategy. It is in this Budget we have given it its second wind and a boost of \$125 million over the next five years to see the second stage of that Affordable Housing Strategy hit the ground. You may recall the first Affordable Housing Action Plan to deliver on the strategy commenced in 2015, due to finish in 2019. We have brought forward our investment in the second Affordable Housing Action Plan to commence next financial year as well. We will have an overlap and a doubling, effectively, of the investment in affordable housing development at a time it is critically needed. It has been a great thing we have been in the budget position to do that. That is one of the proudest things for me in this new Budget. We have been able to bring that investment forward and will now be working with what is effectively a \$200 million Affordable Housing Strategy over eight years, which will assist around 3600 Tasmanians and includes the development and delivery of 2400 homes for them.

When we refer to homes there is much discussion in this place and many broad statements made about delivery of houses, how many, of what type and all the rest. We recognise in our Affordable Housing Action Plan there is a diverse range of people, each with different needs and what may be a housing solution for one may not be for another. It is not all about a stand alone family home with a yard and a garden. That might be what is needed for a family. It may not be what is needed for a person with a disability, an older person living alone, a young person at risk from homelessness, or somebody escaping family violence. Some of this investment in our Affordable Housing Strategy and our action plans 1 and 2 will be going to services to assist people such as those who live in a supported accommodation facility because of their youth, their disabilities or other health or behavioural needs they have at their stage in life. I am proud of the groundwork done in 2014-15 to establish such a comprehensive Affordable Housing Strategy with so many dimensions to it. It is tailored to fit the broad housing needs of Tasmanians.

Part of that work was the development and the support for the Housing Connect model, which provides a single point of entry, a front door they can come to and through which they can be directed and matched to the housing solutions, services and options that best suit them. That is the organisation, Housing Connect, and that network and mechanism we chose to support when, straight after this election, we found we needed to come up with a quick response to what was mounting as a critical winter period for people in acute housing stress and homelessness. We had a system that worked, which was built as part of our Affordable Housing Strategy. We chose to invest further in that with \$500 000 in extra resources, which gave them three extra people on the ground in the greater Hobart area and the capability to, through brokerage, secure additional places for people who found themselves homeless or in housing stress. This was either as a short-term solution while they were able to sort out their circumstances or where they could be safe and secure in transition to another service accommodation facility or housing solution offered through the Housing Connect system.

I am grateful to Colony 47 in the greater Hobart area, who have been providing that service every single day through the last several months and over several years. We must not forget that. These circumstances we are facing as a state and a capital are not new. They are there 24/7. There are people on the ground, working. We have added to their resources and we have told them if they need more, there will be more, and we are grateful for the work they have done through the lead up to this winter period.

We are doing the job, although longer term, of addressing the supply issues that sit behind the current shortage. This is not a structural problem we will have forever. This is a challenge of catching up the supply of housing to meet the new demand of our successful, growing Tasmania. Our next stage over the next 12 months, in which we have a double funding year, we will focus strongly on supply of built stock. The majority of that is where the need is greatest, in the greater Hobart area. Planning for the next 12 months is being finalised for the extra \$25 million, on top of the \$20 million from the Affordable Housing Action Plan 1. This is along with the other revenue of \$7 million or \$8 million that comes from Housing Tasmania's own activities in rental incomes and in sales of properties, most often from tenants of public housing, which is reinvested through the capital investment program in developing more housing to Tasmanians.

Of the \$125 million over the next five years it is important to note \$20 million of that, over three years, will be quarantined for accessible housing for people living with a disability. That requires particular design characteristics. In some cases it will be customised to the particular needs of an individual, where required. In other cases it will be in adopting a building standard that provides for certain dimensions of a building - doorways and circulation spaces, et cetera - so they can better accommodate someone with a wheelchair, for example, and which standard affordable housing templates may not provide for. To give you an idea, in a number of the new builds I have been visiting around the state, the bathrooms are built as open plan, so there are not many edges for people to have to step over or to manoeuvre. They are also built with the normal timber stud wall with a heavy marine ply layer then attached to it. Then it is plastered so that handles for people with mobility issues can be attached at any point in the bathrooms. Those houses will be able to be set up for a tenant with particular needs, but over the life of the building, it may be repurposed several times over - for people with different sorts of needs, be it family or an individual person with a disability - without having to undertake major structural works to the house to make that possible. I am very pleased with the level and standard of housing that is being built.

I have also been pleased to visit facilities like the Youth At Risk facility in Moonah for very young people at risk of homelessness. They will be able to have a secure, supported environment as their longer term accommodation needs are worked on. The 25-bed supported accommodation facility, which is now open and operating in Devonport, will provide a home for slightly older young people, in the 16 to 24 age bracket, who will be tenants of that facility. These young people might otherwise have been homeless are tenants of that facility. They are paying rent, doing their own cooking and washing, and receiving support and assistance to learn important life skills, and developing some experience of living independently in a controlled, supervised environment. They will have access to the Devonport TAFE, which is next door, as well as the Loaves and Fishes Program being operated out of another part of the same building. There they can take up an opportunity to get training and employment in a commercial kitchen, preparing meals made with food donated through Second Bite and other suppliers, to provide pre-packaged cooked meals for other people with disadvantage in their own community. Quite possibly we will have young people entering the facility who might otherwise have been on a path to homelessness, who will now have life skills training that makes them employable, and importantly, a reference from a landlord, which might be one of the things that helps them get their first tenancy in the private rental market as an adult.

I raise those examples to give some insight into the spectrum of need and response that our Affordable Housing Action Plan encompasses. When we talk about homes and houses for Tasmanians we need to consider all of those different groups of Tasmanians and what they might need from our response.

Shortly we will be commencing intensive consultation on the second Affordable Housing Action Plan for the next five years. We anticipate that elements of the first Affordable Housing Action Plan will continue, including private rental assistance and the rapid re-housing and private rental incentive programs and headleasing, as well as the Streets Ahead and the Homeshare Home Ownership programs.

Market conditions have changed since the first Affordable Action Plan was built. We want to hear from stakeholders who are working on the ground and service providers who are working with Tasmanians in need to ensure that we are continuing to reflect the real needs of Tasmanians and their circumstances that they find themselves in right now.

At another level, apart from the houses, homes and solutions that we provide as government or through our partners in the community housing sector and the social housing sector, we need to look at the broader Tasmanian market as well. I think the Premier has seen this coming and allocated the portfolios of housing and planning to the same minister. What we need to be doing beyond the social, public and community housing supply is looking at the similar numbers of properties that are out there now in land that is suitably zoned and subdivided, or potentially able to be outside, that needs to be brought to market to alleviate the supply shortage that is affecting the whole market. When there are not enough houses to go around and prices go up, what happens is that the people least able to compete in the market get forced down and out.

If we are able to generate more housing in the market more generally the supply and demand will be in better balance, the pricing and competition will settle down some and we will find that fewer people are in need of assistance with housing. That is the other part of our challenge. Not only how do we provide houses for those who need them, how do we provide the conditions under which fewer people are in need and can operate themselves into the private rental market and in the broader housing market to get their first opportunity there?

On the one hand that is about the planning process and ensuring there is adequate land available and suitably zoned. We are planning for the future of supply for a growing economy and population. First I will go to one of the actions from the Housing Summit held on 15 March, which was to release more land in suitable locations for the development of affordable housing amongst other housing types.

Last week I tabled my first bill in this Parliament, the Housing Land Supply Bill, which aims to do just that. I want to thank my department and those who have worked with it and assisted it in turning this around in less than 10 weeks - a new bill that has been drafted, consulted, changed and now tabled, which we will be debating shortly. Its aim is to take land in suitable locations that the Government owns and, through a streamlined process, bring it to a point of being eligible for a development application for subdivision and subsequently a development for housing, including affordable housing. It has been a very quick process and it will hopefully take six months, maybe more, out of the pipelines for those parcels of land and give us more land to work with through Housing Tasmania's existing processes to develop affordable housing amongst a range of others.

I will touch on an item raised in the Leader of the Opposition's budget reply and has been mentioned by some other speakers, where Labor is intending to develop policy around the concept of inclusionary zoning. This is a topic that has been discussed frequently by many speakers during the last few months during the debate about housing in Tasmania. I know it is a concept that has been adopted in other jurisdictions as well in very different ways.



The question is: what are the right numbers and what is the right percentage to be applying? I note the Leader of the Opposition is quoted as saying that this would be a requirement that would apply to all new residential developments out there, not just government land and public housing developments. This is where we probably depart as do commentators such as Saul Eslake, who has spoken on this topic. He rates the principles of inclusionary zoning which mandates a quota of affordable housing to be built in a property development but says it should be considered for housing built on government land. He said it has worked best in the past in South Australia where the inclusionary zoning principle was applied to government land so it does not become a tax or an additional impost or a red tape-type of impost on private land development which might already be quite marginal in terms of its economic returns with the risk of failure, particularly for those who are depending on commercial finance to get their project off the ground.

At a time when we need, across the board, more houses in the market in the private sector as well as in social housing, we do not believe this is the time to be introducing a policy which might make it harder for the normal private residential investment market to invest and bring properties to the market. When it comes to government land and government investment in housing, we argue we already have something which is better than a blanket inclusionary zoning policy in the form of the Homes Act 1935. This is what we intend to use in the bill we have tabled. Rather than setting up a new prescription for how many of what type of housing should be built on these parcels of rezoned government land, we will adopt instead the practice we already have for government-owned land being developed for housing under the Homes Act 1935.

I will make reference to the purpose of that act because it is what guides all the work Housing Tasmania does and all the government investment in housing on the ground through the Affordable Housing Action Plan. The act has a fairly simple purpose, which is to

- enable persons to reside in residential accommodation that is safe, secure, appropriate and affordable;
- promote and enable the provision of safe, secure, appropriate and affordable residential accommodation;
- provide housing assistance and enable the provision of housing support services so as to assist in the economic and social participation of persons who without such provision, may be restricted in whole or in part from economic or social participation in society;
- encourage and enable the integration into existing and new housing communities of persons with diverse characteristics and diverse financial, social and personal circumstances and residential accommodation that is owned or lease by such person who reside in it or that is provided to such persons by way of housing assistance;
- ensure that housing assistance and housing support services are able to be provided to person most in need of such assistance and services and for a period that such assistance and services are required to be provided to those persons; to encourage the development of flexible and innovative financial arrangements that facilitate the ownership, leasehold or occupation of residential accommodation by persons on low or moderate incomes;
- recognise and respect the wishes and needs of persons to whom housing assistance is to be provided and those persons with whom they reside or are to reside; and

- provide housing assistance and assist in the provision of housing support services in a manner that enables effective scrutiny of such provision and assistance.

I feel, through the debate, that this is pretty much what Labor is aiming for in their statement or their intent regarding inclusionary zoning, but we can demonstrate that the evidence shows it works best when it is applied to government land, not as an additional requirement or effectively a tax or an impost on private development, and when it comes to government land we already have the mechanism that does that with greater nuance and clearer intent than just putting a percentage affordable housing quota on a development, be it public or private.

I also note briefly that in the Opposition Leader's response she made reference to the New Zealand Government and took a shot at our Government doing nothing on providing additional housing for people. There was reference made to the New Zealand Government's aims to urgently increase their housing supply this winter by more than 1500 additional transitional and public housing options. We did some quick calculations and with a population of about 4.8 million, 1500 additional houses on the same percentage per capita basis would mean about 162 new affordable housing options if it was applied to Tasmania at the same rates. That is about what we will be delivering between the period of the last election and the end of June this year under the existing Affordable Housing Action Plan. That is far from doing nothing. We are out there every day creating the housing that people need.

New Zealand has made this aim of what they want to do by the end of winter. We will be doing it by the beginning of winter, pretty much at the same sort of rate. This information is out there about what we are doing. We report it quite a bit because it is important that Tasmanians know how their money is being used to solve this problem that they see on their news and in their communities. The evidence and the numbers are there and we ask the Opposition to listen to them and ensure they are representing those things accurately.

We also agree that the new and vibrant visitor accommodation sector needs to be monitored, understood and needs to comply with regulations. We are very happy to have agreed with the majority of people in this place and with TasCOSS, Shelter Tasmania, the Local Government Association and Tourism Industry Council that the key is going to be to ensure that we have good reliable data and information and a means of knowing that we have compliance with the regulations we have that have recently been tested, assessed, endorsed and improved by the independent Tasmanian Planning Commission.

### **Time expired.**

[5.58 p.m.]

**Ms STANDEN** (Franklin) - Madam Speaker, a budget is more than a set of appropriations. It is a blueprint of this Government's priorities. We hear often from members of the Government about how well Tasmania is doing and there is no denying that there is some truth to this. Saul Eslake considers that this Budget delivers on the Hodgman Government's record election commitments and provides what should serve as a further boost to business confidence. It contains a record \$1.6 billion of new spending, including a record \$878 million of additional infrastructure spending over the next four financial years. However, as TasCOSS chief executive Kym Goodes said, Treasurer Gutwein's fifth budget was 'a missed opportunity for the Government to rebalance investment and rebuild for the next generation'. She said, 'Leaders do the right thing, not just do things right'.

It seems to me that this Budget fails on both counts. First, this Budget is not doing things right. It is irresponsible; it is a house of cards. Peter Gutwein has never produced a real surplus. The Budget is a plan to take Tasmania back into net debt. Because the Budget is totally reliant on the rivers of gold, the luck that has flowed in the past few years in terms of unexpected GST revenue windfall with massive revenue upward provisions, Tasmania's share of the GST is far from secure. Judging by the Government's own track record of over-spending, the Budget is based on unrealistic expenditure growth forecasts.

Second, this Budget outlines a set of priorities that does not deliver on the 'right things'. It fails to respond to the short-term urgent demands of a health system in crisis, of an affordable housing strategy that is failing to meet demand, of a private housing market where rental affordability is at an all time low. It fails to invest in fair and reasonable wages for the public sector, it is disrespectful of public servants and will inevitably result in the loss of good people. It is a missed opportunity to put forward a legacy budget that either spends in these good fiscal times to address needs or saves or at least maintains a buffer to protect against budget shocks.

According to the Treasurer, Tasmania is 'on the cusp of a golden age'. CEO of TasCOSS, Kym Goodes, said:

When you have a \$161 million surplus and people are sleeping rough it would be hard to understand why it is a good Budget.

We need to leave a legacy and this Budget does not leave a legacy. When you listen to this Liberal Government, during their first term, throughout the election and now, they rarely talk about people. Bricks and mortar, roads, jobs, yes, but do they talk about people? What they say is always measured by what a good job they are doing compared to the last Labor government. I can imagine now the Premier spilling milk while preparing his breakfast of a morning and coming up with some way to blame it on the former Labor government.

Saul Eslake said:

Four of the Hodgman Government's five budgets so far have been favoured by fortune.

He also said:

It remains to be seen however whether it has done enough to shelter the state from the storms which could conceivably hit us in the next year or two.

It is also very much an unresolved question whether its reform agenda is bold enough truly to take Tasmanian living standards to a higher level by comparison with the rest of Australia. Certainly stagnant wage growth continues to shake the foundation of this so-called golden age - this vision of taking the state to the next level. Nationally, wages will grow by up to 3.5 per cent annually. The Governor of the Reserve Bank has said that he believes wage growth should start with a three and not a two. Yet this Treasurer and this Government is standing firm on its 2 per cent wage cap policy. What do public sector unions think about this and therefore public servants that it serves? Tom Lynch, Secretary of the Community and Public Sector Unions, said in response to the Budget with his tongue firmly in his cheek I am sure:

Come to Tasmania where the pay is less than anywhere else in Australia. There is a huge risk to the Budget.

He said in all seriousness. The Government has a capacity to pay when there are surpluses forecast. That is true. He understands that public servants are the engine room of the economy by delivering government services. He values people and he understands the contribution that they make to our economy.

Tasmania is doing as well as it is because of our people. They are creative, innovative and welcoming. Our state has become an international tourist destination and every local business in every industry has no doubt experienced the benefits of this boom, but an economy should work for people not the other way around, as members of the Government might suggest or have you believe.

During the election just gone, the Government touted the figure of 10 000 jobs being created in our state throughout the last term. What they failed to mention is just 400 of these were full-time positions. This was reported by the *Examiner* earlier this year. As ACTU Secretary, Sally McManus, said about the union movement's current Change the Rules campaign:

Too many in Australia have no job security. They can no longer predict or plan their lives. Having a job you can count on is a foundation of the Australian way of life.

When it comes to employment, the commitment and priority from all my colleagues in the Labor Party is, and always will be, secure and full-time work.

I was struck by the story of a young woman I met during the election campaign. She is in her early 20s, living at home, but one day hoping to enter the housing market. She left school at the end of year 12. She secured a job in the meat room in a major supermarket retail chain - and go her for breaking through that ceiling. She was happy with her wages and conditions but had not really thought about her prospects of one day securing a bank loan for a mortgage. When I asked her about her casual job and her prospects for the future, the penny dropped for her. She realised how unfair that situation was. Casualisation of our labour market is a huge concern for our young people and their future.

I am a proud member of the Tasmanian Labor Party. Our motto is as much a mission statement as a vision statement, 'putting people first'. My previous roles before election to this Chamber were concerned primarily with health and community sector work. I understand the impact that budgets have on communities and on people. Rebecca White said:

Our vision is for a state which is a beacon for fairness and that we should strive to ensure that no-one gets left behind.

That means providing the fundamentals like a roof over people's head. It means investing in a world-class health system because we know that when people are healthy and happy, they can be more active participants in our community and our economy. When it comes to opportunity, Labor does not just talk the talk like the Government's party, we walk the walk.

In the lead up to the last federal election, an op-ed appeared in the *Mercury* defending the Liberals' Senate preselection process. Simply put, the six best candidates just happened to be men. The Australian Labor Party and EMILY's List, of which I am a proud member, understands that

affirmative action is an important way to address long-standing gender inequality in this country. It is part of our broader commitment to diversity to representative democracy; that is, to have a goal of ensuring the representatives elected to parliaments represent the diverse background of the community from which those people are elected. Preselecting and supporting women to contest winnable seats over many years has contributed to the historic situation where 52 per cent of MPs in the current Tasmanian parliament are women. This is because 64 per cent of Labor's Tasmanian MPs are women.

Now to the economy. When the Liberals chastise the former Labor government on budgetary management, they always neglect to mention that the world was coming out of the global financial crisis at this time. It is only through the leadership of former premier, Lara Giddings and Tasmanian Labor, that the effects of this worldwide shock were not as bad as they could have otherwise been. Our national economy avoided recession by the slimmest of margins but Tasmania's was slow to recover due to a strong Australian dollar, hurting our state's exports, among other things.

Make no mistake that the current global and economic conditions favour Tasmania. The Australian dollar is trading at around 74 US cents, more than 25 per cent lower than the earlier part of this decade. The Tasmanian economy exports 2.5 times as much as it imports, making a low Australian dollar extremely important for its economic performance, and yet Tasmania continues to be challenged by traditional structural weaknesses in our economy.

Unemployment is set to remain at around 6 per cent which is above the national average, with low participation and increases in part-time and casual labour. CPI is set to increase at around 2.25 per cent over the Estimates. Importantly, this is above the Government's public sector wages policy of 2 per cent, and we have the lowest GDP per capita of any state. Average annual revenue growth over the last four years has averaged 5.7 per cent and this equates to around \$1.6 billion in additional revenue that was not forecast in 2014. Expenditure has grown by 4.4 per cent on average annually under the Liberal Government from 2014-2018. In this Budget it is predicted that expenditure growth will increase by only 1.7 per cent in the next four years.

Given the Government's inability to meet their fiscal targets over the past four years, this is simply an unrealistic, unbelievable projection. Additional appropriation of \$168 million was approved in this House not long ago. The failure to keep expenditure within budget in the current financial year - and this has increased from \$41 million additional appropriation last year - shows a worsening track record in relation to government expenditure.

This is a deficit budget. The Treasurer likes to quote the net operating surplus because it is the only measure in which he is in surplus. This is a budget that delivers deficits on an underlying fiscal and cash basis through to 2021. The Budget lists almost \$200 million in deficits across the period. GST is the greatest risk underlying this Budget. Whilst the vast majority of revenue increases in the Budget relate to federal payments for specific purposes or the GST there is no assurance beyond a phone call that Tasmania's share of the GST is safe beyond the first year of this Budget. Saul Eslake asked -

If the Prime Minister's much vaunted 'guarantee' that Tasmania will 'not get a cent less' actually means (as a literal reading of it seems to imply) only that Tasmania will not get less than the \$2.48 billion it will receive in the coming financial year, in the years following that, then Tasmania would receive \$500m less over the three years 2019-20 through 2021-22 than the Budget assumes.

This Budget shows the biggest infrastructure spend in history but is without a long-term infrastructure plan, a strategic vision or a framework for that expenditure. Labor, by contrast, is committed to a suite of state planning policies: liveability, heritage, natural and environmental values, biodiversity, coastal, climate change, settlement, sustainable transport and infrastructure, all developed in consultation with the community. Labor also committed to partnership agreements between the state government and local councils to build a shared vision and outcomes across community development, infrastructure, education, health, wellbeing and employment.

As an example, this Budget provides \$30.8 million for a Greater Hobart Traffic Vision, including the fifth lane on the Southern Outlet that will apparently go out to consultation for at least four years. This is a massive investment in infrastructure spending that really needs to be linked to a strategic vision, pulling people together across councils and across the community for a strategic, holistic solution to this increasing traffic congestion problem.

Another example, a paltry \$2 million for establishment of a new Derwent River ferry service. I attended a presentation by Bob Clifford through the election period. His vision was not for one or two ports, it was for six, eight or even more than that. He wanted state Government funding for building of the ferries and the port infrastructure, and he did not want to commit Incat as the operator. From my perspective, a much bigger problem demands a more sophisticated solution. Tasmanians and Hobartians, on the whole, are addicted to their cars. In order to relieve the congestion on our roads, alternative services would need to be reliable and time competitive, there would need to be adequate parking and/or bus services to transport people from their homes to ports and from ports to places of work, integrated ticketing and to be cost competitive.

As an example of this Government's inability to think strategically, Metro Tasmania has trialled free bus transport for early bird commuters before 7 a.m., in the return to school period, over the last two years. They have set the initiative up for failure. Why not extend this for a decent period and include periods during the school terms for comparative purposes? You only have to take to the roads during school holidays to understand people of Hobart are so reliant on their cars for lifestyle reasons, not because of cost. It is so they can drop their kids off at school, travel across town. It is lifestyle; reliability, convenience, punctuality, are the main determinants of behaviour change for the majority of commuters. If you wanted to target cost sensitive people, why would you not extend the initiative from 7 a.m. to 8.30 a.m.?

This Government needs to understand infrastructure development should be about more than cranes in the sky and announcements. It is about people and strategic vision. Jobs in the construction industry is one part of that, but also people, families and preserving and improving our lifestyle, protecting the things that make our state so special.

I faced a choice when I completed my university education and decided to return to Tasmania; to return to Tasmania because I was able to secure, permanent, relatively well-paid employment that provided professional challenges and a chance to make a difference in the state I grew up in. I had a chance to give back to my home state and return home to be close to my family and friends, a place with a reputation for affordable housing where there were short commutes and travel times and with accessible, quality healthcare. Coming home, I felt I would eventually be able to raise a family in a relatively safe community with relatively good child care, public schools and small class sizes. All those things are under threat in this day and this age.

A massive \$750 million in Health expenditure was promised by the Hodgman Government throughout the election period. By comparison, less than half of that, \$370 million, is promised to

be delivered over four years. Over half of this Government's election commitments to fund Health was Monopoly money - do not pass Go. \$210 million was cut from Health expenditure by this Government in its first term. Against this track record, how can the people of Tasmania trust this Government with Health spending?

This health system is in crisis, with ambulance response times and ramping, emergency departments choked, bed block, elective surgery wait list blowouts, uncompetitive wages and an exodus of specialists. There is loss of accreditation for the LGH and the Royal Hobart Hospital. This means reduced service to the Tasmanian community in the short-term and is a serious health workforce issue. Students, medical, nursing and allied health graduates want the option to stay to train and practice in their home states but they will choose to move interstate early in their career while they have few commitments. They leave on the promise of better wages, better conditions, career pathways, specialisation and support through proper resourcing for adequate staffing and supervision where the work loads are realistic, offering a reasonable work-life balance.

It is a deep shame that Tasmanian women cannot access affordable, safe, surgical terminations in their own state. To suggest an option for patient travel assistance to have the procedure interstate represents a so-called choice is an insult to all Tasmanian women and to all Tasmanians.

The Government's goal is to be the healthiest state by 2025. By any measure this is an unrealistic and unachievable, though lofty, goal within current spending priorities and this Health minister knows it. Roscoe Taylor once said this state has the oldest, sickest and poorest population in this country. With the highest per capita population of indigenous people, what a shame and what a blight on this state there are such persistent illness and mortality statistics, with the burden of preventable chronic lifestyle related disease, and 10 to 15 years less life expectancy for the indigenous community.

According to TasCOSS, the expenditure on preventative health should be at least 5 per cent of the Budget. The Health minister, days ago, proudly trumpeted his Healthy Tasmania Plan of five years, funded at a paltry \$6 million over four years. Out of an expenditure of \$370 million, this represents 1.6 per cent, the focus is on smoking and obesity and I am not arguing that as a starting point. Health professionals know we need to go far further. In this Budget, I welcome the investment in child and family centres and neighbourhood houses, Labor's initiatives, to bring people together, eating with friends, community gardens, literacy programs, child care, employment; all local solutions in local communities. I welcome investment in Move Well, Eat Well and school canteen associations, amongst other preventative health initiatives but we need to go further.

At the TasCOSS post-budget briefing, there was a graph shown by Saul Eslake showing Tasmania has, shamefully, the lowest investment in community services of any sectors at less than 30 per cent of national spending. A question was put from the floor to Mr Jaensch, given the uncertainty over the GST revenue, 'What assurance can you provide that the Government will not cut investment or change priorities if the GST revenue declines?' This Government has form. Over successive budgets, they have cut public health. Mr Jaensch bumbled his way through an answer around social enablers of health. He talked about the cost of living, physical education, food security, housing, education, and he drew what? He received a golf clap because those in the audience knew - because they are more expert than he is - the professionals in the room realised the Human Services minister did not have a clue what he was talking about. He was talking about social determinants of health and not preventative health services and he does not know the difference.

In the area of public health, instead of cutting, this area should be properly resourced and tasked with developing comprehensive whole-of-government policies across housing, education, transport, infrastructure, the arts and planning. There ought to be greater collaboration across agencies and within the community sector because when funding is cut this reduces innovation. Agencies withdraw and they think they know it all. A good example where this has been done well under the previous government was in the area of food security grants, an example of not just a grant program but a process that truly encouraged collaboration between community sector agencies for agencies to come together to develop innovative place-based local solutions. I can say from first hand experience that competition within the sector is usually the greatest dampener on collaboration and innovation.

The Tasmanian community sector needs a state government willing to provide not just sticks but also carrots to encourage people to come together and share ideas. On greater accountability, Labor would like to see the health statistics that are released quarterly include preventable illness, communicable diseases and the like to properly account for these measures.

What is the response to the Budget from the health and community stakeholders? It has been scathing. They have warned that the amount committed will not fix the health crisis. As a former health professional I know that no amount of money will fix the problem. It is true that money alone will not solve the long-term challenges of preventable lifestyle-related disease and an ageing population, of access to services especially after hours and in our rural and regional areas, not to mention gaps in mental health and oral health. Labor's healthy communities commission provides a visionary way to engage with health and community services professionals, academics and practitioners to wrestle with these long-term challenges facing the Tasmanian community.

Moving to Housing, the housing debt in Tasmania is \$157 million and we are currently scheduled to pay off this debt in 2042, another 24 years, by which time I will be nearly 75, hopefully retired, but my son will be approaching middle age and hopefully have a family of his own. Under the previous housing agreement Tasmania received annual revenue of \$30 million, of which \$15 million is repaid immediately to repay borrowings, including a whopping \$7.3 million in interest payments.

As I said previously, the community sector was holding its breath hoping that the Prime Minister's visit to Tasmania on budget day held a momentous announcement like waiving Tasmania's public housing debt or at least reducing it perhaps to interest-only payments so that we do not have this continuous burden of losing half of our annual revenue in repayments. That is \$15 million that would significantly boost and make a big contribution to social housing, one-third of the current budget spend committed to the Affordable Housing Strategy. Pattie Chugg has said that Tasmania needs to build at least 150 affordable rental homes per annum above the existing commitments. This Government is not on track to deliver that. Under the Government's Affordable Housing Strategy a commitment was made to build 430 new social houses between 2015 and 2019, but just 37 or less than 9 per cent of those have been built to date, with just a year to go. This should be a reminder that throwing money at an initiative is not the solution to housing and homelessness.

I note the Housing minister's announcement in the House this week that the multilateral and bilateral housing agreements have now been signed with the Commonwealth. I am interested to understand whether the funding is tied to outcomes per the recent trend in these agreements. If so, how does the Tasmanian Government intend to deliver on those outcomes when such a big proportion of revenue is paid back immediately on the housing debt?



Every Tasmanian should have safe and secure housing but right now Tasmania has an unprecedented housing crisis. Young Tasmanians are giving up on the dream of owning their own home, families are living in tenuous housing arrangements struggling to pay rent they cannot afford. Others are couch surfing, not knowing where they will sleep from one night to the next. This is emphasised by the continued growth in public housing applications and the lengthy wait time in which applications are enduring. This has ballooned out from 20.6 weeks in 2014 to now a massive 63 weeks, with over 3500 people on that wait list. It is no way to live and no way to create a healthy and stable family environment. During the campaign many people raised concerns about housing with me, whether it was people on the public housing wait list or tenants in public housing desperate for basic maintenance and repairs, through to young couples and parents concerned about the rising cost of private rentals, with people being unable to save for a deposit on their first home.

Throughout my campaign and since the election I have continued to speak with and assist people who are directly caught up in the housing crisis. What can we do as Tasmanians to help? There is no simple solution, but important public discussion is now occurring. Housing and homelessness deserves a sophisticated multi-pronged approach that targets the most vulnerable groups. As the Opposition Leader has suggested, we can look interstate and overseas for other solutions to these problems.

Short-stay accommodation is part of the problem and it cannot be ignored. In Hobart alone, one in every 27 homes is now listed on a short-stay platform and there has been an explosion of listings up to and over 200 per cent in these past 18 months. As an immediate interim measure to tackle this escalating crisis the state Government ought to have reconsidered its position in relation to short-stay accommodation regulation. At least we have a joint House parliamentary inquiry into public and community housing and I hope this will create a strategic basis for decision-making into the future.

I will move on to education. Just briefly on the matter of extending high schools to years 11 and 12, whilst I agree enrolment, retention and attainment figures appear promising, it is time a full review was conducted to determine the long-term future for high schools and colleges. There are models like the tegana Collective on the eastern shore that by all accounts are working well to ensure good cooperation and sharing resources across multiple campuses, with the aim of keeping the student at the centre.

Student engagement is the missing piece. Students should be encouraged to complete year 12, but education and learning must be relevant and engaging. We need to invite independent experts to look at our situation in public education and on that point also invite our educators, because they are experts at the coalface and they confront educational challenges every day and discuss possible solutions in their tearooms. This is not about politics, this is about student outcomes and we need to continue this conversation and remain committed to a bipartisan approach.

I was going to go on to speak about Franklin announcements, so I will just briefly mention I am pleased to see the Risdon Vale Bike Collective receiving funding of \$190 000. I would have liked to have seen the Government embracing our initiative of \$770 000 to enable co-location of the Neighbourhood Centre with the bike collective, because built and social infrastructure work together. I am pleased to see \$750 000 for rehabilitation of the Franklin foreshore but I would have also liked to have seen funding for the Kingborough Lions Lightwood Park stage 2, which remains unfunded.

In closing, the fairness agenda is a good economic agenda. There is growing inequality and it is not a golden era when there are people not sharing in the benefits of our economy. Growing inequality needs to be tackled thoughtfully and meaningfully through secure, fairly paid jobs, timely access to public services and openness and transparency in government engagement across our communities.

I want a future for my son to grow up and complete his education in this state. If he leaves to study or work interstate or overseas, I want him to feel that Tasmania is his home, his anchor in his heart, and the place to which he can always return. Every day I am committed to do my best in this place to rise to the challenge as a community leader to keep in mind the best interests of generations to come.

[6.29 p.m.]

**Mr SHELTON** (Lyons) - Madam Speaker, it is my great pleasure and honour to make a contribution to the budget and to stand in this place representing the people of Lyons. It is an honour and a privilege to be here. We all must acknowledge that in delivering a budget and then in talking to the Budget, it is about the Tasmanian community. I have the opportunity now to respond to the fifth budget of the Hodgman majority Liberal Government.

I congratulate the Treasurer - he is in the House at the moment - and his department and Treasury on all the work that goes into a budget. Working on the Budget is no mean feat. After four previous years he is able to introduce a budget that touches nearly everybody in the state. It produces jobs for people and young people. It touches the communities around the state, it assists the vulnerable and small business in tax. It is a privilege to be part of the Budget.

This Budget is about the infrastructure to build Tasmania's future. The Hodgman Liberal Government's infrastructure program will deliver Tasmania's infrastructure for the twenty-first century, helping to drive future economic growth and improve services for the benefit of the whole community. The Budget delivers on jobs right across the state. It delivers on opportunities for families and communities and it delivers optimism to everybody.

This Budget is delivering infrastructure funding at a record level that makes this a great budget for regional Tasmania. The booming economy will be complemented by the infrastructure spend, but first, a bit about the economy and some recent figures.

As at May 2018, there are now 248 500 people in work, up 13 400 since the 2014 election. That is a great result. According to the March 2018 quarter Sensis business index survey, Tasmania's small- and medium-business confidence was the equal strongest in Australia, at 12 points above the national average and 29 points more than it was in March 2014 under the Labor-Greens government.

At the same time, the census found that regional small- to medium-businesses confidence is the strongest of any state and territory. The Hodgman Government is by far the most popular in the nation for the third quarter in a row. In the regions around Tasmania, in the north-west and on the west coast, there has been a strong increase in jobs since the 2014 election. The number of people employed in the year to April 2018, is approximately 1300 more than the last year of the Labor-Greens government. In total, there are 1500 fewer unemployed on the north-west coast than during the last year of Labor and the Greens.

The year-average unemployment rate is now at 6.2 per cent. This contrasts with an average 9 per cent during the last year of the Labor-Greens government, an improvement of 2.8 per cent. In Launceston and the north-east, as at April 2018, there are 3300 more people employed than the last year of the Labor-Greens government. In the year to April 2018, the average unemployment rate was 5.8 per cent, down from 7 per cent in the previous year, and 2.2 per cent below the average in the last year of the Labor-Greens government. In Hobart, in the south and the south-east, the labour market is booming. The average employment for the year at April 2018 has grown by 6100 over the last year and 9800 since the 2014 election. The unemployment rate in this region in April was 5.8 per cent, well below the average of 7.2 per cent during the last year of Labor and the Greens.

That is a great result. I have listened to most of the commentary from the other side. Labor seems to be very negative. You cannot really understand why. The only thing they can do is to harp about the good news story of this Government.

The Government's payroll tax measures will help provide business, workers and the skills that Tasmania needs to grow to the next level. Payroll tax relief of up to three years will also be provided for any business that relocates to Tasmania and establishes itself or its operations in a regional area of Tasmania. We have announced that there will be an extension to the successful payroll tax rebate scheme for small business grants until 2021, to support the employment of around 4500 young Tasmanians as apprentices and trainees. These programs have been enormously popular with the business community. There are 36 000 small businesses in Tasmania, employing Tasmanians.

There will be a record spend of \$2.6 billion invested in infrastructure across Tasmania, such as beginning the works for the new \$270 million northern prison, the largest infrastructure investment ever in the state's north. An amount of \$10 million into the construction of police stations will see the purpose-built facilities at New Norfolk and Longford within Lyons. In regional areas, police stations are particularly important to help build positive working relationships between police and their communities. The communities the police serve and the new stations will be a contemporary, well-equipped base for police activities.

As a member for Lyons and with a rural background, I am thrilled that we have moved into and acknowledged the third tranche of the irrigation processes. This third tranche will take agriculture to the next level. An additional \$70 million has been allocated to the third tranche of the irrigation schemes. A total of \$45 million has been allocated over the Budget and forward Estimates period. That is a great thing for further development of water infrastructure across the state.

We have allocated over \$45 million to commence stage one of the construction of the northern prison.

The Great Eastern Drive is a fantastic success. I compliment Mr Hidding as the minister for infrastructure at the time. The process of naming this drive and the promotion of the drive was in the first term of the Government, but it does not come without its hiccups. Although it is a great drive equal to any other in Australia, it has produced an excessive number of tourists on that road. Therefore the roads needs upgrading. There will be money spent on the Great Eastern Drive. Nearly \$23 million worth of improvements to the roads are pretty good for Tasmania's visitor economy including the Great Eastern Drive. Mobile coverage will also be improved along the Great Eastern Drive; \$3.5 million to improve mobile coverage between Binalong Bay and Buckland. This investment will improve coverage in several small towns along the drive, including Four Mile Creek, Falmouth and Coles Bay, enhancing access for tourists and locals alike. It is anticipated that

this will also allow for the future expansion of the Tasmanian Government's free Wi-Fi network along one of the state's most popular tourist routes.

When it comes to infrastructure investment, there is none larger than the Bridgewater bridge, overlooked for many years by the Labor government. We have a commitment. It was fantastic to see the Prime Minister coming down here acknowledging that the federal government will support that \$576 million project. Our commitment is \$121 million for the bridge and that is a fantastic thing not only for the southern Lyons people but for the whole state when you travel up and down the Midland Highway and the access into Hobart. It will be a fantastic development to watch over the next few years.

Talking about agriculture in the Budget and how it relates to some initiatives that we see here, the contribution to the Blundstone Scholarship of \$60 000 per annum over six years from 2018-19 will assist students who would not otherwise access higher education and undertake an associate degree in agribusiness at the university. Those people are not necessarily going to come from Lyons but will certainly be from a rural background. This is a great initiative and benefit to everybody and I am hoping there will be some scholarships handed out to people in Lyons.

The Tasmanian Government's additional contribution to the Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture of \$3 million over five years from 2018-19 takes the total investment to \$28 million. This increased funding will support the establishment of a new agriculture innovation fund for specific industry-aligned priority research projects. It is fantastic to see us investing in research in the agricultural industry. Another initiative is to provide \$7 million over three years to modernise crown and TI research farm assets and make research farms the centre of excellence for practical research and demonstration. In Lyons one of those is the Cressy research farm.

Another great initiative will go towards agricultural shows. The funding of \$1 million over five years will support the Agricultural Show Development Grants Program to enable rural and regional show societies across Tasmania to upgrade vital community infrastructure to keep their shows profitable and sustainable. We have seen the demise or downgrading of some shows but the regional shows are critical for their communities and I am sure the show societies and the volunteers within those societies are very much looking forward to this grant and what they can do to benefit their community.

Funding of \$900 000 over four years from 2018-19 has been provided to the dairy farm extension Grow More, Milk More, Make More initiative to work with the dairy farmers. Areas of focus will be productivity, farm business and value-adding strategies to continue to grow production, improve farm profitability and meet processing and market demands for our milk and branded dairy products. This initiative will be co-managed by the Department of State Growth.

Another great initiative is the Stock Underpass program. An additional \$600 000 has been provided over three years - this one not commencing until 2019-20 - to offset the cost associated with the stock underpass infrastructure, improving farm and road safety, and increasing farm efficiency. In addition to the existing funding of \$500 000 in the 2017-18 budget for 2017-18, 2018-19, this brings the total initiative of the funding to \$1.1 million over the four years.

A horticulture market and trade development initiative will provide \$550 000 over four years from 2018-19 to work with the fruit and vegetable growers and agribusiness. The initiative will exploit new collaborative market and export opportunities, drive increased trade, productivity value and farm productivity. This initiative will be co-managed again by State Growth.

There has been much talk in this place over the years about the hemp industry, a great developing industry. That is why there is \$150 000 over three years to support the Hemp Association of Tasmania with grower communication, product development, marketing and branding to support the exponential growth of the hemp industry.

Another important industry to agriculture is the bee industry and funding of \$750 000 over three years from the 2018-19 Budget has been made available to work closely with the beekeepers and crop pollinators to implement the Government's bee industry future report. This initiative will focus on the resource access, biosecurity, high productivity and crop pollination resilience. This commitment includes \$500 000 for selected infrastructure upgrades to improve resource access.

The organic industry is an important industry to agriculture. An initiative of \$230 000 over four years to work with the organic accreditation bodies will assist the farmers, producers and agrifood businesses interested in transitioning to an organic production method with certification and market development.

Regarding the red meat industry, one I am associated with with my brother on the farm, there is an initiative of \$1 million over four years to work with farmers and processors to increase trade, marketing, value and sales for Tasmania's red meat. This will complement practical strategies to increase local livestock production and throughput via efficient pasture and grazing management, seasonal supply strategies, disease prevention, herd development and quality assurance. They are marvellous initiatives for the agricultural industry.

There is also assistance to rural financial counselling services and farm management mentoring, which are critical. We know with any business you need to upgrade your skills and this support of \$595 000 is a great investment in the agricultural industry.

We have talked about Rural Youth many times in this place, predominantly around Agfest and the fantastic work they do there. There is an initiative in the Budget of \$70 000 over four years that will assist the development of young people in rural industries and leadership programs. This commitment is fantastic and will help Rural Youth continue the great work they do within our communities.

The TFGA will be provided with \$100 000 over three years towards the Living Next Door to a Farmer campaign. This campaign will support the TFGA's work with farmers, the real estate industry and local government to support good neighbourly relations, especially where farm land adjoins existing and new urban and peri-urban developments. In consultation with the farmers and agribusiness the whole-of-government white paper will consider policy improvements to address the key issues impacting on the cost of production, investment and productivity of farm and agribusiness.

The wine industry is very important to Tasmania and the wine market development and tourism initiative of \$600 000 over four years is designed to drive up the value and reputation of Tasmanian wines. This funding will also help with industry initiatives in vineyard productivity, research and winery small business support skills. The initiative will be co-managed with the Department of State Growth.

It is vital women participate in agriculture, for the perspective women bring to the on-ground work, the business and the orientation of business because farming is not only a job. It is a business.

This initiative provides \$120 000 over four years to women in agriculture, to build the capacity of more rural women to take leadership roles in Tasmania's primary industries.

It is fantastic to see this Budget supports tranche 3, the next phase of water development. A new Tasmanian rural water strategy will guide our future water management arrangements, ensure integrated, fair and efficient water administration and compliance, deliver water security to farmers and irrigators and manage our water assets to achieve sustainable outcomes in changing climate and agricultural growth, the environment and rural communities.

I am really excited about weeds funding. We have talked about the issue of weeds for a long time in the rural sector, and where we go as a state in combating weed infestations. A new Weed Action Plan with a fund of \$5 million over five years will be invested with farmers, Landcare and other community organisations to tackle weeds impacting on the value of agriculture and environmental assets. The Tasmanian weed advocate will be established to work in partnership with the department and identify strategic on-ground priorities across land tenures and coordinate with the weed action fund.

There will be some construction around Lyons and it gives me great pleasure to talk about the new St Helens Hospital and the funding to complete the project. The original commitment was made in the 2014 election and it was wonderful when I had some time in St Helens the other day to walk around the streets, to look at the development and how it was coming along. It looks very good from the outside. There is still some work to do round the outside but for completion later on this year, perhaps December, it looks as if it will meet that target. It will be fantastic for the St Helens area. Distance from major hospitals is an issue for the east coast and this is a tremendous investment in the people of St Helens and the greater east coast.

The Midlands Multi-Purpose Health Centre is also a great investment for its people. The people of Oatlands have been promoting how good the multi-purpose centre is. It has a volunteer management committee and the funding of \$2.5 million is to provide for major upgrades of the Midlands Multi-Purpose Health Centre at Oatlands. The Government will work with the Southern Midlands Council and the local community advisory committee to ensure the redevelopment is designed to best support the local community. When you visit the multi-purpose centre there is always the enthusiasm of the locals about their centre. They certainly take ownership of that and the enthusiasm of the people around is fantastic to see.

They are some major investments in Health across Lyons. We also have funding in this Budget for \$30.3 million over three years to establish a dedicated aero-medical and medical retrieval service. The funding will be used to provide additional staff, consisting of flight paramedics and specialist retrieval doctors. In addition, funding of \$1.6 million has been provided for capital costs associated with the establishment of a dedicated aero-medical and medical retrieval service, including expanded base facilities to accommodate crews on-site, an additional road vehicle to enable the helicopter crew to respond by road if required. That is a fantastic initiative for the whole of Tasmania.

I recall the Minister for Health talked about the Royal Hobart Hospital being all of Tasmania's hospital. Indeed it is. My father, when he needed a bypass, came down to the Royal. That is where it is done. It will be fantastic for people to have access to the Royal, particularly from regional communities, which at times needs to be fast and efficient. The aero-medical service will be a fantastic service for Lyons and the greater expanse of Tasmania when there is a specialist need, either away from Hobart or directly around it.

This year's Budget has delivered on the promise of capped regulatory electricity price increases at or below CPI over the next three financial years. The Office of the Tasmanian Economic Regulator recently announced the regulated power price for 2018-19 has been capped at 2 per cent, slightly below the Tasmanian CPI. The bill to cap the prices in 2019-20 and 2020-21 is already before parliament for a decision. Tasmanian businesses are also supported through the 2018-19 Budget, with an extra \$10 million to extend the rebates for commercial and industrial businesses coming off the contract for a further 12 months.

The work on de-linking the Tasmanian wholesale contract price from Victoria has commenced with the establishment of the energy reform team in the Department of Treasury and Finance. Our On-farm Energy and Irrigation Audit Program will also be provided \$750 000 over three years to help farmers identify saving strategies. This budget initiative, combined with the Farm Energy Advocate service established through Aurora Energy earlier this year, will help agribusiness better manage their energy usage and cost.

The Government has also committed to a review of the irrigation tariff, which will significantly assist irrigators across Tasmania. This is particularly so within Lyons, because Lyons - and I love Google - if you look at Lyons and the patch through the Midlands, around Deloraine, Westbury and through the Meander Valley, all you see now are the circles of pivot irrigators all over the place. Water has transformed the agricultural sector and has insulated it from our very dry seasons. In doing so, it has created a lot more productivity and assisted the sustainability of our regional communities.

As a direct result of the Hodgman Liberal Government's affirmative action to cap electricity prices, Tasmania is one of the most affordable places for electricity in the nation. As reported by the Office of the Tasmanian Economic Regulator in January, Tasmania has the second lowest annual electricity bills for residential customers and is the lowest state across the nation for small business power users. That is a fantastic outcome.

This outcome of capped power prices will assist the average Tasmanian household, who will receive an approximate annual saving of around \$153, with an average business receiving an annual saving of around \$169.

### **Time expired.**

[7.00 p.m.]

**Ms BUTLER** (Lyons) - Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to provide my response to the Budget and begin by reaffirming my role, which was announced by our Leader yesterday, as the chair of the newly established waste watch committee which will keep track of unnecessary and wasteful current spending which can be directed into essential services. I am proud to chair this committee and will work with unions, public sector workers and members of the business community to collect new ideas, find efficiencies and boost productivity. I believe the waste watch committee will hold the Liberal Government to account and ensure greater transparency.

It is true that the first four budgets of this Government reaped over \$1.6 billion in revenue above the 2013-14 forecast. This revenue was not used to reform state taxes or to invest in infrastructure and it is obvious it did not go into Health, Housing or child protection, because these areas have been chronically underfunded by the Liberals. Labor's waste watch committee will work with experts to find ways to find efficiencies, which improve public services and make sure that funding is directed to the areas of greatest priority.

I am proud to be from the only political party in Australia with an economic reform agenda. When we recently asked the Treasurer to name one economic reform the Government had implemented he could not provide an answer: actually he could not provide many answers to other questions this morning as well. That is because the Government does not have an economic reform agenda. It is the Labor Party that floated the Australian dollar, globalised our economy, introduced lower tariffs and stopped our trajectory towards becoming a banana republic. I am convinced that the only economic reform the Liberal Government understands is privatisation of services.

A recent topic at the Liberal Party Federal Council meeting was about the privatisation of the ABC and was voted on. I am not sure whether the Premier has confirmed whether he voted with the majority of attendees at that council meeting to sell off the ABC. I, like many people in the community, grew up with the ABC and believe the non-commercialisation of the network is an integral aspect of Australian culture. The ABC is responsible for programs such as *Four Corners*, *Stateline*, and *Media Watch* and also really good-quality radio broadcasting. In a time where our journalists are under the pump and often compromised by slanderous accusations of fake news, we need to ensure that independence and non-commercial gains are prioritised. I hope that the Liberals' sentiments to Americanise and commercialise our unique country are not realised. Hands off our ABC.

This Government is quite simply surfing the wave of prosperity created around it. With a low Australian dollar and a tourism and property market boom there are some people in Tasmania who are doing very well indeed. I do not like to be the killjoy in the room but I have to state that in my electorate in Lyons there are many people who are not doing so well. I am pleased to see cranes in the sky, new developments, greater tourism numbers and a general feeling of prosperity for many people in Tasmania. I am genuinely pleased to see that. I am proud of the achievements of the state and I want to add to the business confidence, which this Government seems to be spruiking.

I understand the strategy to spend Government money on infrastructure spending. It is to boost the economy and create an atmosphere of prosperity, but when Tasmania's consumption rate, which makes up 60 per cent of our GDP, has only grown by 0.18 of 1 per cent, we must ask why Tasmanians are not consuming. Our slightly increased GDP is based on government spending, not on consumption. This might be because Tasmanians have the lowest wages in Australia. It could also be that Tasmanians, especially southerners, have the most unaffordable rent in Australia. We are not generating enough consumption in our economy.

I am also concerned about the growing gap between the haves and the have-nots in our community. On that note I will speak to the Budget from the prospective of the people of Lyons. One of the most comprehensive studies undertaken on disadvantage in Tasmania is the Dropping off the Edge report, last reported in 2015 on crime reporting, local government and some educational data. This builds on similar reports released in 2007, 2004 and 1999. Although Tasmanian data was not included in the earlier two reports, it is still a comprehensive study and one of the best comprehensive indicators of disadvantage we have. We know that disadvantage is concentrated in a smaller number of communities within Tasmania. We also know that unfortunately four out of the top five most disadvantaged areas in Tasmania are located in Lyons. These communities experience a complex web of disadvantage and bear a disproportionately high level of disadvantage within this state. These areas have remained depressed for long periods, demonstrating the persistent and entrenched nature of the disadvantage experienced by these communities.



The most disadvantaged communities in Tasmania account for a disproportionate number of top ranked - that is the most disadvantaged - positions. The data suggests that 21 per cent of localities account for around 80 per cent of the most disadvantaged ranks. The disproportionate distribution of disadvantage within the state is highlighted when the incidence of particular factors such as unemployment and contact with the justice system among those living in the 3 per cent most disadvantaged communities is compared with the rest of Tasmania.

As I said, some of us are doing very well and others not so well. The average Tasmanian worker earns \$10 000 per year less than our mainland counterparts. Those living in the 3 per cent most disadvantaged communities are more than twice as likely to have suffered domestic violence; twice as likely to be disengaged from education or employment as young adults and at least 50 per cent are more likely to have had some form of personal contact with the criminal justice system. There is not enough in this Budget to address entrenched disadvantage. We know Tasmania still has the highest unemployment figures, the smallest GDP, dropping retail figures, and some of the lowest attainment and retention education rates in Australia. Tasmanian unemployment levels are set to stay at around 6 per cent compared to the expectation of unemployment rates of around 5 per cent nationally. Employment in the most disadvantaged communities of Lyons peaks at 27 per cent in one community on the outskirts of Hobart.

Tasmania's south-east is a national youth unemployment hot spot, with a jobless rate of 21.8 per cent, the third-highest youth unemployment rate in Australia. The national youth unemployment rate is 12.2 per cent. The Brotherhood of St Laurence refers to this as a tale of two Australias; I refer to it as a tale of two Tasmanias. I will quote from the report:

While some parts of the nation offer young people abundant opportunity, in other areas young job hunters are struggling for their chance.

I welcome steps introduced by the Government that will address youth unemployment in my electorate but I am dubious that introducing decreased payroll tax to large employers to attract relocation to Tasmania will fix this problem. The barriers are long-term, entrenched and need to be complemented with proactive investment in education, traineeships, apprenticeships and additional community services sector investment to tackle intergenerational unemployment.

With the Newstart allowance way out of sync with the actual cost of living, I am struggling to find much in the Budget to help engage young unemployed, disadvantaged people. Too many of the communities in Lyons electorate, such as the central highlands, southern midlands, the Derwent Valley, Brighton and the Break O'Day, Glamorgan and Spring Bay municipalities are among the most cumulatively disadvantaged places.

The longevity of disadvantage clearly shows that long-term programs and long-term vision is vital to addressing disadvantage. Short-term solutions will not address the full scope of disadvantage. The Government has missed a golden opportunity to address youth unemployment. We know from the skill shortage list, developed by the Australian Government Department of Jobs and Small Businesses, Tasmanian rural areas are deficient in skills in the following areas; diesel mechanics, metal machinists, panel beaters, vehicle painters, bricklayers, carpenters and joiners, plumbers, automotive electricians, locksmiths, stonemasons, glaziers, roof tilers, wall and floor tilers and hairdressers. The bulk of these skills are trades.

Despite the Government's budget measures to provide further incentive to employers by reducing payroll tax measure through to 2021, for employers who employ traineeships and

apprenticeships, this is not working. It has not, to date, changed the problem with the skill shortage in trades and it has not even touched the sides of the problem of disadvantage and youth unemployment in my electorate. The incentive, on the surface, is positive. However, it only benefits business owners and targeted employees. We must do better. We are not investing enough in our trade and training centres and we are not formulating policy for the long-term. We are not providing enough incentives to address the skill set to embrace our agricultural industry skill shortages. We must tackle youth unemployment.

Recent data tells us 24 per cent of Tasmanian farmers are looking to increase investment in their businesses. One of the biggest problems with investing in their farms and business is the skill shortage in rural Tasmania. The decline in full-time employment positions is real. The casualisation of our workforce is a major issue. Our employment system is changing to meet the needs of business owners, not workers. We must remember a balanced and strong economy, overall prosperity and wellbeing should be paramount.

Whilst working for the now retired David Llewellyn, shadow minister for police and emergency management, I was constantly advised by the public that the community did not have a permanent police presence in the Derwent Valley. We lobbied for a permanent police presence to assist the community with feeling safe and that the increase in crime rates, disengaged youth and disadvantage may be addressed. The community was left without a permanent police officer due to a zoning schedule that resulted in a small number of police negotiating an area between Old Beach and upper Derwent Valley, including Brighton. I take my hat off to Tasmania Police. They do a wonderful job and are an integral part of our community connectivity. I have never questioned the work they do.

Permanent policing is about fighting crime and community development, strengthening and engagement. Community strengthening projects need to maintain steady focus upon core problem solving and sustaining capacities of the community by the community. Traditional policing occurs when the officer is part of a community, a go-to person, a person who knows how to interact with people and often to intervene prior to a situation escalating into a major issue. The Police minister agreed to reintroduce permanent policing to the valley but then upped the ante, strangely, by announcing a new \$5 million police station to be built in New Norfolk. Whilst the good people of the valley appreciate the investment in their community, it is an unnecessary spend when the current site can be modernised and renovated to match new safety standards.

**Mr Hidding** - An unnecessary spend?

**Ms BUTLER** - It was a little bit over the top. We had a really good alternative.

**Mr Hidding** - I'm going to ring Darren Clark and tell him you said that.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** - Order. I ask members to be respectful of other members making their contribution.

**Ms BUTLER** - I acknowledge the new Longford Police Station as positive.

The Derwent Valley has a fabulous online access centre that I remain committed to ensuring is not closed, and the recurrent increased funding is provided to ensure the irreplaceable service is maintained. I applaud the commitment to invest \$400 000 over four years to increase digital inclusion through the creation of a strategy to increase the capacity and affordability for Tasmanians

who currently experience high levels of digital exclusion. This will include low income households, older Tasmanians and people not in paid employment. I hope this strategy will enhance digital pathways for Tasmanians communities to increase participation online and expand their social and economic options and opportunities by working with government agencies, the private sector and not-for-profit organisations.

I am curious as to whether this is where the fund that will support online access centres derives from. If it is, \$100 000 per annum will only fund two centres and there are 20. We know online access centres are being funded through a digital connection grant program that is currently being reviewed. Is this another stealth attempt to close the remaining online access centres? I am concerned that the relevance and scope of the services offered by online access centres will be manipulated to start the closure process again. Section 6 of output group 2, Libraries Tasmania, under their performance information, they are undertaking a measurement -

Percentage of people who feel more confident using digital technology after receiving support from Libraries Tasmania staff (including volunteers), or participating in courses.

The target begins in 2018-19. I am concerned that a strategy to justify the closure of online access centres may be built around relevance and service. I will be vigilant to ensure this does not happen. I will continue to support and reaffirm the vital role online access centres provide to our communities in providing assisted digital access skills and training for people of all ages in our communities. I reaffirm the volunteer contribution provided by communities across Tasmania exceeds the funds required to operate and run online access centres and that they are cost neutral.

I will talk about the investment in school farms. They are a tremendous source of skills and training for many students. I support the investment announced with this Budget, especially for the electorate of Lyons. There is a long history of discrepancy in funding allocations between the school farms. Some farms have been adequately resourced whilst others are forced to fundraise and almost beg to meet the demands of running their school farm. I am hopeful this discrepancy is eliminated in the additional funding of \$800 000 over four years to support operation of school farms across the state.

I also support funding for improved opportunities for learning about primary industries and the science behind food and fibre production. This is part of the AgriVision program in which there are a few holes but overall it is a good strategy.

Infrastructure funding of \$7.3 million has been allocated toward supporting a revitalised network of school farms across the state, with an allocation toward school farm infrastructure at the Jordan River Learning Federation of \$4.3 million, that is Brighton School Farm, and \$3 million for the Sheffield District School. This is welcome. The funding for this infrastructure is overdue but I welcome the investment.

I am pleased to read that funding will continue to provide better outreach support for people with mental health concerns outside of the urban areas. The 2018-19 Budget provides \$380 000 over the next two years to assist RAW to provide better outreach support, focusing on older Tasmanians experiencing mental health concerns in regional areas. It is a start but it is lacking and I implore the Government to invest more money in mental health support.

Homelessness is an issue in many areas across Lyons, with communities such as St Helens, Primrose Sands, Bridgewater, Gagebrook, New Norfolk, Longford, Cressy, Carrick, Deloraine, and Sheffield all struggling. The significant increase in the price of rental accommodation means the people of Lyons are struggling to pay rent. They simply cannot afford it. We do not have a women's shelter in Lyons and we still have four out of the five most disadvantaged communities in Tasmania. There are 3000 people on the unallocated list for social housing in Tasmania. Over the last seven years I have assisted constituents on a daily basis as they have attempted to navigate the Tasmanian social housing system. The inadequate and often inequitable system has contributed to the current affordable housing crisis and I cannot see any measures in this Budget to address the growing desperation of many people in our communities. The image of the tents at the Hobart Showgrounds in pouring winter rain with the caption 'Tasmania's Golden Age' was a reminder that there are many of us that are still not doing so well.

I am pleased that the Government finally acknowledged the community concerns in relation to the dwindling numbers of paramedics in rural communities. Our rural ambulance services are essential due to issues with access to GP services and their remoteness. An allocation of additional funding of \$14.9 million over four years to recruit an additional 42 paramedics is a start but is still far short of what is required to ensure existing paramedics are not overworked and provided sufficient break time, realistic shifts and appropriate supports.

I have received dialogue from a number of paramedics who have either resigned or retired due to frustration with the current system, including Tasmanian Ambulance volunteers who simply could not continue to donate their own time to the Tasmanian Ambulance Service due to mismanagement and lack of support.

Volunteer ambulance officers play a vital role in rural areas of Tasmania and this Government has largely taken the role of the volunteer ambulance officers for granted. High volunteer turnover is real. Lack of training and support is real. I am pleased to see the allocation of funding to ensure that an appropriate duty of care to the volunteers and the public has been realised. I would like to think this investment will be a powerful recruitment and retention tool and maybe it is just my 10 years of HR and change management coming out, but it is long overdue. Training ensures that emergency service volunteers are competent and confident. Previous inadequacies in funding for training for volunteers and volunteer ambulance officers caused volunteers to feel stressed, unsupported and disrespected. Christine Fey states in the *Journal of Emergency Primary Health Care* that:

The risks of providing inconsistent and poorly resourced training are high volunteer turnover, limited skills and dwindling emergency capacity. Ambulance services aiming to recruit and retain volunteers should investigate the flexibility, quality and timeliness of the training they deliver to ensure it reinforces the motivation of their workforce.

I support the Government's volunteer support package of additional funding of \$800 000 per annum over the next four years to enhance support for ambulance volunteers, including enhanced training and coordination; enhanced equipment for training volunteers; formal recognition of skills development, including advanced first aid certificates; reviewing operational responsibility to ensure volunteer stations have support from a branch station officer; increased volunteer recruitment; and retention to improve efficiency of Ambulance Tasmania and response to patients, particularly in rural communities.

Regarding reimbursed out-of-pocket expenses, I found that heading to be indicative of almost an arrogance previously shown towards volunteer ambulance officers. The fact is that volunteers are not even reimbursed effectively for out-of-pocket expenses when they are volunteering in their own time to keep Tasmanians safe. This matter was raised continuously over many years without any action. We must always remember to appreciate our volunteers in Tasmania.

After years of lobbying and raising the concerns of Brighton, southern midlands and Derwent Valley communities continuously, I am pleased to see an allocation of \$121 million over four years for the development of the new Bridgewater bridge. The overall costs are expected to be around half a billion dollars, and I remain sceptical that the bridge will be completed by 2024. I also note in the fine print of the road program expenditure that a completion date for this project is yet to be finalised. I hope the final design incorporates a walking track and facilities for pushbikes. The fact that the current bridge does not have a footpath has always been a source of frustration to the community.

I am pleased to see the sealing and drainage infrastructure of the Highland Lakes Road will be completed during the next two summers making for a safer, consistent, all-weather road environment. The allocated money from the 2014 federally funded Roads for our Future program has been allocated to bridge strengthening of the Esk and Tasman highways, Colebrook Main Road and Esk Main Road will receive funding, but sadly limited in scope by the small amount allocated. I was pleased to see the extending of the Great Eastern Drive to Binalong Bay in the key deliverables statement. I note the allocation does not apply until 2019-20 and I am not sure that \$4.5 million will buy a significantly improved road, but is a start, which the community and I appreciate.

I will continue to lobby and voice my support for improving the Great Eastern Drive roads, which are some of the worst roads in this state. We need greater investment immediately to the roads between Bicheno and Swansea. If we are serious about providing a driving experience which matches the incredible world-class landscape of the Hazards and high-quality wineries, restaurants and accommodation venues, we must invest in new roads to match the tourist population and also provide safe passage for tourists and the people of the east coast. The potholes, winding roads, narrow and unsafe conditions of the road must be properly resourced as a major infrastructure project. I do not know one local who travels the section between Bicheno and Swansea at 100 kilometres per hour. It really is an accident waiting to happen.

Tourism to the east coast is vital and 60 per cent of the east coast GDP is reliant on tourism. This is the second most tourism-dependent region in Australia. We must ensure road improvement on the Great Eastern Drive is maintained. I would have been happy to see more spent; however I was pleased to see an investment to improve black spots along the road. Building new public amenities along most tourist routes in Tasmania must also be seriously investigated.

I was also pleased to see funding of \$500 000 for the third season of *Rosehaven*. Most of the previous seasons were filmed in Oatlands and the Derwent Valley and I am advised that this should continue with season three.

**Mr Hidding** - Did you watch all the episodes?

**Ms BUTLER** - No, I have not. I do not watch much television, only the ABC.

**Mr Hidding** - You should watch it. It does my head in, every time I think it's the same episode I watched before.

**Ms BUTLER** - I believe it is a sensible financial and cultural investment for Tasmania. The filming of the previous *Rosehaven* episodes injected an estimated \$2 million into the Tasmanian economy and of the supporting roles, 42 of the 50 were filled by local Tasmanian actors, which is a great endorsement of the talent in Tasmania's screen industry. Additionally, the series previously employed over 25 Tasmanian crew and provided traineeships for up to 10 emerging Tasmanian practitioners. Television series like *Rosehaven* also provide a great tourism benefit to our brand Tasmania. I often think of the Academy Award-nominated movie *Lion*, which had a small investment by our state and resulted in exposing Tasmania to the world. There was one scene in particular where the main character walks off a plane and he has a t-shirt with a map of Tasmania on it and that was seen by millions and millions of people around the world. We need to ensure we continue with clever investment in Tasmania.

I recently had the pleasure to view the \$7.8 million St Helens Hospital redevelopment project, which seems to be progressing very well. I congratulate the Health minister on delivering the funds for this project. The good people of St Helens and its greater surrounds deserve a facility to meet the needs of the community. I congratulate our Leader, Rebecca White MP, who initiated this project.

In conclusion, I reiterate my support for infrastructure investment in the electorate I represent. There are some valuable investments for the people of Lyons but I do not agree that we are in a golden age at all. With entrenched disadvantage represented in four of the five most disadvantaged communities in Tasmania's Lyons, it is certainly not a golden age. We are however striving to maximise tourist numbers to the east coast and to continue to export heavily whilst the Australian dollar is trading at low levels.

Taking agriculture to the next level with an agriculture centre for excellence and an investment to modernise our research farms are sound investments which we will continue to enhance Lyons as being one of Australia's most important bowls. I support the AgriVision program to grow the value of Tasmania's agriculture centre to \$10 billion per year by 2050. A key part of the AgriVision 2050 is to revitalise agricultural education and training in Tasmania and we must make sure we align the skills required in the farming sector with the provision of agricultural education in the state.

### **Time expired.**

**Mr HIDDING** (Lyons) - Mr Deputy Speaker, it is my pleasure to speak to the Budget. I congratulate the Cabinet and the Treasurer for an outstanding budget. The Treasurer presents it and constructs it, very much in concert with a budget committee and a Cabinet that works up a strategy that is the right thing for Tasmania in the 12 months prior. There is a bunch of work the Cabinet puts into constructing a budget and eventually presenting it here to the parliament. I congratulate all of them on that work.

This is a slightly different budget in that many of the announcements and initiatives were pre-announced in an election a few months earlier than the presentation of the budget. There was a power of work in those election commitments. They all represented four years' worth of work by the majority Hodgman Liberal Government to come up with an affordable package of promises that were going to energise the plan we had to take Tasmania to the next level. That is precisely what happened. We ended up with a balanced budget and this Government is committed to keeping the budget in the black by ensuring we continue to live within our means. This is in stark contrast to

the 16 years previous. Living within our means was something you had never heard from the previous government.

The 2018-19 Budget builds on our successful financial management, forecasting budget surpluses each and every year. A balanced budget gives business confidence to invest and employ more people. It is proven time and again that when we present this kind of plan we see the investment and employment of more people. Budget discipline is something all Tasmanians understand. The average Tasmanian household, every Tasmanian household, understands living within their means. They might not always be able to do it and many struggle, but they understand that to have financial discipline in a family budget is identical to what should take place in this place. They give a big tick to governments that want to live within the means of the state. We have come a long way over the past four years, with 11 000 new jobs created, an unemployment rate dropped to 6 per cent, which was a 1.5 per cent improvement since the 2014 election, a serious improvement.

Our economy has become one of the strongest in the nation and Tasmanian businesses are the most confident in the country. A sentiment amongst our business sector in Tasmania is so important. A positive sentiment is reflected through banks, financial institutions in lending decisions, plans for expansion development people have been sitting on for 10 years, ideas are all coming forward now because there is this sentiment of confidence in a state that has its budget and its plan together. We have been elected in a majority to deliver that and we will.

Yesterday a bill passed this House and has gone to the other place with a series of important measures that are popular with the business community. It is a reflection of our understanding of exactly what the business community needs in Tasmania. We also have a range of sector-specific policies that will reduce red tape and foster business investment. Continuing with that and in similar work is slow, it is incremental, but we are delivering these outcomes and there are more breakthroughs in this area almost every month.

As to infrastructure, we talk about this golden age. It is without question. We have the funds, the means and the commitment to take a large step up in infrastructure spending. We are sure that the Tasmanian civil construction industry will rise to the occasion. We need to work with them to ensure all their settings are such that they can meet the target we have in mind for the infrastructure spend over the next four years and in the out years as well.

I dropped into a workplace, a major road building project. I went into their offices and spoke to a young engineer. I asked him, after I had dropped something off to him from someone in his family, how are you going? He explained to me that he was a young Tasmanian studying engineering who went off to Queensland where he was in design of civil construction work. That was okay but he had always hoped to be out in the field. There was this strong call for bright, smart, young engineers to return to Tasmania. He applied, he took the job and as I waited for him he was walking off the job site with three to four construction supervisors around him. He was clearly some 10 or 15 years younger than all of them and he was explaining to them what he wanted, how it was going to go and they were all listening carefully. Here was a proud, young Tasmanian engineer, returned from Queensland to participate in this golden age of infrastructure spending we have here. He is one of the most delighted young engineers in Australia to be part of this new environment.

We are also prioritising Education. Over \$192 million will be invested in new school and TasTAFE infrastructure over the four years. I will mention the new Brighton High School.

Currently, nine buses come straight out of the southern midlands, drive straight past Brighton and Bridgewater, over the bridge and into schools on the other side of the river every morning. That is nine full buses every single day, to the great discredit of the Labor Party who went to an election to put a tax, a choice tax, on all those people. They were going to be paying more. If you were elected they would be paying more to choose to go over the bridge, nine bus loads of people would have been penalised, taxed on choice, to go to the school of their choice if Labor had been elected. It did not happen. We pointed out to them the right thing to do and they did it. We also said we would build a high school in Brighton because that is what it needs. We have stepped up and made that commitment and it is an extraordinary commitment for the southern part of the Lyons electorate.

In hospital and ambulance upgrades, \$475 million is allocated for redevelopment works and upgrades, with \$15 million set aside for capital investments in rural hospitals and ambulance stations and \$12 million for new ambulance stations at Burnie and Glenorchy. The hospital in St Helens mentioned by the then Labor backbencher; they laughed at her then because there was no idea as to where, what and how it might happen. It took us in opposition to bring all the people together, to come up with a plan and find \$12 million for a new hospital. It is almost completed and it is going to be of extraordinary benefit to the St Helens and east coast community.

Stage two of our Affordable Housing Strategy will see \$125 million invested to build 1500 more affordable homes for Tasmanians in need.

In Keeping Tasmanians Safe we have \$22 million to build new police stations at New Norfolk, in Longford and an emergency services hub, which includes a police station at Sorell. I am fascinated the Labor member for Lyons says it is an unnecessary expenditure for a new police station. Labor went around New Norfolk with a clipboard, getting people to sign and demanding better police services in New Norfolk. I doubt whether the member for Lyons, Ms Butler, has ever been to the police station. It is a prehistoric police station. It has the old-style 1950s cells with the old bars and concrete bunkers because it used to be a construction area for the dams in the highlands. It was the wild west there. Frankly, it is a disgraceful workplace for the police. It might look okay from the outside, which is where you have been suckered. I will run your statement that it is unnecessary expenditure by the people of New Norfolk and see what they think.

A local candidate, one D Clark, who tried to get himself elected on the back of the policing in New Norfolk, would not agree with your statement that it was an unnecessary expenditure. If it can be built for much less, it will be. There is enough money there to build what is -

**Ms Butler** - I am on the waste committee; we don't want any waste.

**Mr HIDDING** - You just approve it otherwise you will be doubling your trouble. There is enough there to do a proper job, whatever the circumstances are. There are people who are saying it should be built somewhere else. At the end of the main street is not a bad place for a police station.

**Ms Butler** - It is great there is a police station being built.

**Mr HIDDING** - That is a brave attempt to tidy it up but probably a little late. I will be kind to you.

**Ms Butler** - Thank you.



**Mr HIDDING** - Just like I was kind to you when you tried to make out there was no footpath on the bridge. It took me about six months to clean that up because I thought I would not mind seeing Jen Butler elected so I will let her have some fun with that for a little while.

**Ms Butler** - Thank you, that is very kind.

**Mr HIDDING** - There was always a footpath on that bridge. You did manage to tidy that up a little bit but you were well off the pace there.

In terms of road, rail and traffic management, I know a bit about this policy. It includes \$53 million towards the Launceston and Tamar Valley traffic vision including the Mowbray connector and the West Tamar Highway, and \$121 million for the new Bridgewater bridge. I congratulate the new Minister for Infrastructure. That was something that was two to three years down the track. We were hoping to trap it by then; that is how the budget papers reflected that. Mr Rockliff, the new Minister for Infrastructure, has nailed a sensational deal with the federal government to bring that whole funding forward. In the whole department and everywhere in that government it was difficult but he has nailed it within months of becoming the minister and has been able to announce that we will commence the building of that bridge two years earlier than I had planned and hoped to do, and it will be finished in six years time.

**Ms Butler** - Are you going to call it the Butler Bridge or is that going a bit too far?

**Mr HIDDING** - No. We might call it the Butler footpath but the rest of it will clearly now be the Rockliff bridge and it deserves to be.

There is \$21 million towards the south-east traffic solution. There is a whole raft of opportunities that need to be addressed that are being addressed and there is a sense of excitement out there that we will resolve those matters.

There is \$27 million towards a new airport interchange. There are issues there and without question, that is a disappointment. There are technical issues there. The ground there is soft and with a major fill required, there would be issues if we did not put some time into allowing that to settle. I will leave that for the minister to explain in his own way. The airport interchange, the Midway Point congestion area and the bypasses at Sorell are all key. I was at a breakfast meeting in Sorell this morning and the whole traffic congestion thing is a complex matter. I left at 8.31 from Sorell this morning and was in the city at 8.53 a.m. There was no traffic congestion at 8.30 a.m., it is finished by then. It is from 7.30 a.m. to 8.30 a.m. when it is pretty bad. What I am saying is that these things are complex but they are so critical that they are life-changing right now. When there are school holidays, there is no such problem at all and everything flows.

For that reason, the decision by the then minister for education and training in the last term of the Hodgman majority Liberal Government to spend some \$25 million on a rebuild of the Sorell High School is a massive decision for traffic congestion from the south-east because many vehicles are bypassing Sorell because the Opposition Leader will tell you that there has not been a cent spent on that school since she was there. That is the reason people are bypassing that school and going into Rose Bay and other places. I asked the then minister for education to have a look at Sorell and he agreed that it was high time it had a major upgrade. That is now underway and I congratulate the local community for working with us on those matters.

As a resident of the City of Launceston, a northern resident, I approve of the plan for a co-location of the private hospital with the Launceston General Hospital. That is a terrific idea. Just where it will end up on site is a matter for ongoing work but I know that the Treasurer, as a local member, and the Health minister will work very closely with this. The notion, however, that you can have an operation in a private hospital and if there was a problem you can go down a corridor and through a set of doors into a series of operating suites that can deal with an issue that might have happened in elective surgery in a private hospital is a wonderful outcome and something that all major hospitals aspire to, and so they should. I thank the Minister for Health and all three Liberal Bass members for their terrific work in bringing that project to where it is now, and the Coordinator-General, who used to be the target of the other side. For some reason now, the Coordinator-General is not the target because they accept the non-Hobart view that this guy and his department is delivering in so many ways.

**Mr Bacon** - In four years you did one good thing.

**Mr HIDDING** - I did a little more than that. I listened yesterday to the bitter former minister for infrastructure who cannot believe that we got Infrastructure Tasmania in there; it was all perfect before and we collapsed it. What I will place on the record is that he set Tasmania up for the second two-part tranche of the rail rebuild, which was \$244 million. He was committed to it but when I got in there, there was not one red cent in the forward Estimates.

**Mr Bacon** - Are you talking about rail or are you talking about the underground bus mall?

**Mr HIDDING** - I am talking about rail. To hear from the former minister that it was his project but he did not have one red cent in the budget.

**Dr Broad** - He just has to dig a tunnel and it is already done.

**Mr HIDDING** - No, it is there; do not worry about that. We had the first customer in the underground bus mall last week. He was there; he liked it. He was waiting for the trams, the buses and the trains. I expected him to say that he had been waiting for a toot-toot. Anyway, apparently he walked backwards and forwards in his -

**Mr O'Byrne** - Yes - waiting for the bus that never came.

**Mr HIDDING** - It was nice to have the first customer in the underground bus mall. The point is that we said that something would be underground and there is the opportunity for that to go underground with the bus mall on top, or the reverse. They are matters for the designers and the Hobart City Council to work out. There are all sorts of options that have played out.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I turn to the liveability of Tasmania. There are some special things we do in Tasmania that do not happen in other states. That is the level of recreational fishing and boating in Tasmania. I am not sure if people understand how many recreational boats are registered in Tasmania. There are 31 000 recreational boats registered and 60 000 people who have recreational boat licences. It is estimated by MAST that each boat gets used 17.9 hours a year, which is extraordinary. I have a couple. I am down to less than an hour each in this job, so someone is doing a whole lot of boating. It is extraordinary.

I congratulate MAST and all the other providers of the service of getting a recreational boat licence. Somebody told me that it was almost a three-hour process, not just to learn what to do, but

to get your licence. I have a 12-year-old grandson who is looking to sit his. His father, who has had his licence now for 10 or 15 years, will do it with him to refresh. It strikes me that there are plenty of people like me who have had licences for, say, 30 years who ought to do what my 12-year-old grandson is going to do. It is obviously at a whole new level now. MAST should consider some kind of refresher courses for those who have had licences for 30-odd years and do not use our boats as much as we could.

There is a massive boating fraternity which is delighted with our commitments in the last election. There are all sorts of commitments. In Coles Bay, for instance, we are hoping to extend the breakwater by 30 metres to 50 metres. We will see how we go for money. That will transform the launch and retrieve facility at Coles Bay. The south-east weather at Coles Bay is atrocious. You ought not to be out there. You will end up on the beach. It is very ugly, but with the extension of the breakwater you will be able to safely launch and retrieve. It is a major breakthrough for that area.

A big issue for the popular boat ramps is parking for cars and trailers. In St Helens, out at Burns Bay, they get very angry with each other. People park in front of others and end up with keys dragged along the sides of cars. It is a frustration borne out of poor planning. There is money in the Budget for Parks and others to start dealing with the complex problem of how we can better service that wonderful facility.

In terms of boating, there are more recreational boaters now going wider than ever. I have participated with the St Helens Marine Rescue with a new radio tower. So many people are going out to make fishing distance, which is 20 nautical miles past the shelf, and they were losing radio contact with them. They are out there doing that kind of fishing now. We have committed to an amount of money for closer-to-shore artificial reefs and fish attractor devices. The CSIRO had a fish attractor device out of St Helens for research purposes many years ago. The older people of St Helens and older boaters like me remember going out over the bar way. Before you did any fishing you would head over to the fish attractor device and there was a protocol. You could not get too close to it. You had to stay well out. You had to go in one direction but underneath the fish attractor device there would be 15 to 20 different species of fish living in their own little ecosystem. That would encourage boaters not to go so far offshore and be able to catch a feed much closer to shore.

This is something that works in other areas of Australia. It is totally sustainable. Off Mandurah in Western Australia there is beautiful boating but no fish. They put fish attractor devices in and an artificial reef. Now there are 13 or 14 different species of fish in that area, which is developing into reasonable close inshore fishing without having to go an hour or two offshore into more dangerous waters.

**Dr Broad** - Are there any fish anywhere else?

**Mr HIDDING** - Yes, there are plenty of fish, but they are a long way out and they are widely dispersed. If you have a fish attractor device, they set up colonies underneath these things. It is sustainable; you are not changing ecosystems, you are just providing environments for better fishing closer in, which makes sense all the way around.

Tasmanians love to collect motor cars. I was stunned to find there was 6700 SI plated vehicles in Tasmania. Then there is another 1500 who are veterans. They have the VC plates, which is a different arrangement. During my career it has been laid on me a few times that we were the most

expensive place to collect motor cars for a hobby and doing them up. We were twice the price of most other states and half the benefit. I had a very close look at that and was delighted to announce that at a major car show at Deloraine. The word had got out that I might be speaking at 4 o'clock that afternoon. Nobody went home. There were probably 2000 people who were told that we were going to take the motor tax off the cost of an SI plate, which is up to \$100, an average about \$60, but \$100 coming off that and double the road days from 52 to 104. This got a roar of applause, because it is a game changer. It puts it in the same category as the rest of the nation. My guess is that we will get more of that happening. It is all part of the liveability in Tasmania.

The Deloraine car show it is a beauty. You would not believe how many great cars there are.

**Mr Barnett** - The town comes alive.

**Mr HIDDING** - It comes alive.

In terms of the Budget and how Tasmania is going, we have always talked about stagnant population in Tasmania. It always been a problem. You cannot have serious growth if you do not grow your population - at least a bit of a spike in population growth so it gets onto the same trajectory as the rest of Australia. We have had the strongest growth rate in over seven years and net interstate migration is the highest in eight years. There is a great sense of optimism and confidence -

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** - If the Chair could interject for a minute. It was not you who purchased that \$1 million GT Ford yesterday?

**Mr HIDDING** - In fact it was. Then I woke up! The kind of motor cars that are being collected in Tasmania are as good as anywhere in Australia. There is some seriously good equipment, some rolling stock of the 6700. They are ordinary Tasmanians who love to do it. They have a great time. I love to talk to them and I am hoping one day to be able to join them. If I ever get out of boating I will get into that. You cannot be into both. Sadly, you cannot have boats and collect cars.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** - Cars appreciate; boats depreciate.

**Mr HIDDING** - Yes, indeed they do.

The heartland of the Lyons electorate is small to medium enterprises - small business particularly. There is not a small business that I cannot walk into in the Lyons electorate and say, 'How are things going?' The answer is always, 'Terrific, we have never had it so good.'

I am proud to be a member of Lyons for the majority Hodgman Liberal Government and speak on this Budget.

**Time expired.**

**Debate adjourned.**

## ADJOURNMENT

[8.00 p.m.]

**Mr GUTWEIN** (Bass - Treasurer) - Mr Deputy Speaker, I move -

That the House do now adjourn.

### **Allegations by Premier regarding Election Campaign Funding**

[8.00 p.m.]

**Mr O'BYRNE** (Franklin) - Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to respond to comments made by the Premier in question time today. The Premier, in a sleazy, dishonest and misleading slur, repeated unfounded allegations about donations made to my election campaign in 2010. The Liberal Party and then opposition member, the member for Denison, Elise Archer, made a series of allegations relating to support I received in the 2010 election campaign from my union, United Voice, then known as the LHMU; a union I am a life member of and had worked for for 17 years. The Liberal Party made these baseless claims in 2012. These claims, which were referred to Fair Work Australia and the Electoral Commission, were fully investigated and they found the allegations were baseless and no wrongdoing was found.

Did I receive an apology from the Liberal Party? No, I did not. They are not interested in the facts and they are not interested in the truth. The Premier chose to repeat those claims in question time today in an attempt to deflect from his misleading of the parliament yesterday over an answer he gave relating to his role in the federal Liberal council resolution to sell the ABC. The allegations he made against me are baseless. They have been dismissed by the appropriate bodies. It is a disgrace the Premier would seek to continue to peddle them today in an appalling attempt to deflect attention from his actions. This was stock-in-trade for the Liberal Party in the last term of this parliament, which I was not even a member of.

The Liberal Party forced the then Liberal member for Franklin, Nic Street, to refer to Tasmania Police baseless claims around a standard appointment I made to a tribunal in my role as minister for workplace relations. He made those allegations under the privilege of parliament. Those allegations were also baseless and Tasmania Police dismissed them. These claims have an effect on you, your family and friends and I took them extraordinarily personally. This is sleazy, gutter politics at its worst and it reflects poorly on the Premier and the Liberal Party that they choose to conduct themselves in this manner.

### **Explanation of Speech - Allegations by Treasurer**

[8.02 p.m.]

**Mr BACON** (Denison) - Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to correct the record. I have looked into the Treasurer's allegations in question time this morning. I reviewed the *Hansard* and the video and I will go through what I said yesterday morning and yesterday afternoon. First, I quoted the Premier, and this is my statement from the *Hansard* -

In a speech to CEDA in December last year, the Premier said:

'We've eliminated net debt and I can confirm today, that for the first time ever, total state sector - that's the general Government sector, including our state-owned companies and GBEs - is net debt free.

In the morning when I asked a question, I said -

Given that you proudly trumpeted this just six months ago, can you explain why the Total State Sector will be in net debt of more than \$1 billion within four years?

During my contribution in the afternoon, I read the Premier's quote again and I said -

This is the Premier proudly trumpeting this six months ago. But this morning he could not explain how in four years time we will be back into net debt in the general government sector of over a billion dollars, in just for years.

I did misspeak, inadvertently, one word. I said 'general' when I should have said 'total'. Anyone other than the Treasurer would see from reading the *Hansard* the intent of what I was saying, but I humbly apologise to the House.

The facts remain. In four years' time, the Total State Sector will be over \$1.1 billion in debt. We also know the key to this \$1.1 billion in total government sector net debt in four years' time is the Treasurer will not speak about it. We know there is a range of things in the budget he will not speak about. He would not speak about the underlying net operating balance for 2019-20 when he was asked that in question time this morning. He will not speak about that because it is a deficit of \$82.6 million. He will not talk about the estimated general government fiscal balance for 2019-20, because he was asked in question time this morning and refused to answer. He will not speak about that because it is a deficit of \$252.4 million.

The Treasurer was also asked what the estimated general government cash balance for 2019-20 was. He would not answer the question. He would not speak about it because it is a deficit of \$222.6 million. The Treasurer was also asked this morning what the estimated deterioration in the general government net debt position over the forward Estimates was. He will not talk about it because it is estimated to deteriorate by \$570.8 million. This Treasurer is dishonest; he cannot lie straight in bed. He has a budget that will not stand up to the test of time. It will not stand up to scrutiny next week. We have a Treasurer who is determined to mislead the Tasmanian people over the state of the budget. We know he is determined to drive us back into net debt. Over time, that will come into the light of day. The Treasurer should have been honest about that last Thursday and during this week's question times. We know this is a dishonest Treasurer. It is a dishonest Government and that will come out over time.

### **Violence Against Women**

[8.06 p.m.]

**Ms O'BYRNE** (Bass) - Madam Speaker, Eurydice Dixon is not the first woman to die at the hands of a man this year. She will not be last. I thank those people around the country who organised vigils, including Sapphire Grant and Aimee Clark who organised the vigil outside this House on Monday night.

Last year 57 women died as a result of gendered violence. This year 30 women have already died and before anyone says men are killed too, I say that recognising the gendered pattern of violence does not negate the experience of male victims. It simply recognises the overwhelming majority of acts are perpetrated by men against women. The cycle of violence starts with disrespect. As I have said before in this House, not all disrespect towards women results in violence but all violence towards women starts with disrespectful behaviour.

It starts with the beliefs and attitudes we develop in children. A boy hits a girl, we say he likes you. Language shapes reality. The things we say become the things we do. Kids play outside, the girl is hurt, we usher her inside with the words, 'Don't play with them. Boys will be boys'. The woman is abused by her partner. Why didn't she leave him? The woman is assaulted and the first question is, was she drunk, why did she dress that way? Even the words 'she was assaulted', rather than 'he assaulted her', places the action on the woman. We teach our girls that violence is excused. We tell our boys that behaviour has no consequences. When people say she was out late and had been drinking, what do you think people hear? What he hears is, 'She asked for it, it is not my fault'. What she hears is, 'I am to blame'.

International research shows that gendered violence does not occur suddenly: it is built on a fundamental belief that women do not have as much agency as men. The UN General Assembly found that gender inequality and discrimination are root causes of violence against women, influenced by the historical and structural imbalances between women and men that exist in varying degrees across all communities in the world. Violence against women and girls is related to their lack of power and control as well as to the social norms that prescribed men and women's roles in society and condone abuse.

Inequalities between men and women cut across public and private spheres of life and across social, economic, cultural and political rights and are manifested in the restrictions and limitations of women's freedoms, choices and opportunities. They increase women and girls' risk of abuse, violent relationships and exploitation. When we make decisions that reinforce that women do not have full agency we reinforce that view. It is a view that is not helped by telling women to be situationally aware and it is not way helped by the #NotAllMen movement.

What do you we do other than attend heartbreaking vigils? In particular, what should men do? First, do not be perpetrators of violence. Second, do not make excuses. Do not say, 'not all men'; recognise that this is real and do not dismiss it. Dismissing it has not helped keep women safe. In this I am talking to those men who are offended because we lump you all in together. To those who say, 'but I am a good man', or, 'the men I know are not like that', if you can tell us how we can tell who a perpetrator is, please do because we do not know. Women are dying violent deaths. Women are being hurt at the hands of strangers, at the hands of those we have just met, and at the hands of those we know well. Do not be offended when we do not trust you because we no longer know who we can trust. Do not be upset because we name all men and you think you are a good person who would never do such a thing because we do not know who is who. Third, and we can all do better in this, do not be an enabler of violence, fear or discrimination. Do not stand by when other men belittle, shame or hurt women. You may not be him but if you know him and you do nothing, then we cannot tell the difference between you.

When we debated access to reproductive rights in this House and did not ensure it was available to all women, safely, affordably and without shame, we devalued the rights and choices of women. The research demonstrates that if you do not think women are capable of making reproductive decisions, of leadership positions or equal pay, then you risk contributing to a culture that devalues

women and increases the risk of violence. When you troll and bully, you undermine us all. If you want to make women safer, then always act to ensure women have agency, respect and safety. Respect that when women say they are scared it is not because they hate men but because our world is no longer safer for women, and probably never has been. It is because we are always aware we are at risk, because we know to walk near the lights, because we know to tell people where we are and because we clench our keys in our hands.

If you want to help, then call out the behaviours. Do not participate in the jokes, do not make decisions for us, do not dismiss our fears, and do not get offended because, quite frankly, we do not have time for your hurt feelings any more because women keep dying. Do not tell it is not all men, because right now we do not know and, frankly, we are afraid. I do not want to teach my daughters to be afraid. I want to teach our sons not to hurt women.

Vale, Eurydice, and all those women who have died as a result of gendered violence. Our hearts, our strengths and I hope our actions are with you.

### **Violence Against Women**

[8.11 p.m.]

**Ms HADDAD** (Denison) - Madam Speaker, I am sad and I am angry that so many women are killed each year in Australia simply for going about their daily business and daring to exist in this world. The murder of Eurydice Dixon last week was the latest and is one of over 30 just this year. There were vigils held in parks all around Australia on Monday night in solidarity with the one held in Melbourne in the park where Eurydice was brutally raped and murdered on her walk home from work last Wednesday night.

I attended the vigil in Hobart and it was heartbreaking. There were women and men there of all ages, all of whom reacted with horror that such abhorrent acts occur with alarming regularity. It has been said that if men were killed at the same rate the reaction would likely be wholeheartedly different. We know when men are tragically killed through one-punch or coward-punch attacks, whole cities go into lockdown, drinking laws are changed, and assault legislation is changed, but when women are attacked and killed in great numbers this is not the response. When women are attacked and killed, we hear from police, politicians and media commentators. Often their messages are delivered with good intentions but are always delivered in ways that miss the point.

We hear we should take more care, be more aware of our surrounding, let others know our whereabouts, be more responsible for our own safety. This tells us that if women just tried harder, they would not be attacked. This tells women that attacks are our fault and our choice, but the point is we do take care. We do it every single day. We do it innately, we do it on advice, and we do it without even thinking.

After Eurydice's death, like so many before hers, I got angry. So I asked my friends what they do and what the steps are they take to protect their safety. For myself, I clutch my keys inside my coat pocket in case I need them to defend myself. I call a friend so I am on the phone the whole walk. When dropping my sister or my mum at home after dark, I wait to make sure they are inside their homes with the doors locked before driving away.

Here is what some of my friends said they do. They never walk at night with headphones so they hear everything around them because those vital second could save them. They text the



personal ID of taxi drivers to a friend. They ring a friend from the taxi and say where they were picked up and where they are going. They pretend to be on the phone so they do not seem vulnerable when walking. They have hidden in bushes to avoid cars that have circled back. They lock their car doors when driving. They do not wear a ponytail because it is easier to grab. They wait with friends and colleagues until they get picked up. They only walk in well-lit areas or in areas near houses that would hear screaming if needed. They run on treadmills at the gym, which they hate, to avoid running outside in the dark. They have avoided a man by hopping on a random bus and getting off at the next stop. They never go running without their dog. They take the longer route home if it is better lit. They carry pepper spray because, even though it is illegal, they would rather face the consequence of using it than risking rape or death.

When I was 14 I had my first part-time job. I would often walk home late at night by myself through the Hobart bus mall. I would wear a great long coat and stomp my way up the street in the hope that anyone observing me would think I was a man and not a young girl. Thinking back now of myself at 14 or 15, 5 foot 3 inches and less than 50 kilos, I can see how farcical that strategy was, but the fact is I knew I had to do it. No-one told me I had to; I just knew I had to take more care and be aware of my surroundings, as we hear from those commentators. But women do not need to be told to do these things because we rarely go a day without feeling them. We are conditioned to be cautious, worried, on edge and it is exhausting.

But doing these things is not enough. Despite these precautions, women are still being killed every week and every month. 'She should have caught a taxi', I read from one commentator, 'a \$10 ride would have saved her life'. Here is what happened to my friend in a taxi just this week. The driver started to question her about her day. He asked did she have a husband? A boyfriend? Did she live alone? Did she have children at home? Did she drink? Would she like to drink with him at her home? I know some would say these seem harmless questions she could just brush aside but the fact is they are a sign of what we all know - to be on guard at all times because we are not safe in public places.

My comments so far have been limited to an attack or harassment by strangers but I put on the record that I know women are much more likely to be attacked, raped and killed at home by those they know, those who should love them and respect them. Indeed, home is often the least safe place for women.

Madam Speaker, until men's behaviour changes, until we start teaching boys and men not to rape rather than teaching girls to not get raped, we know these deaths will continue. Just talking about it is useless. It is as useless as the thoughts and prayers Americans sends families each time there is another school shooting. We need real, tangible social change and we need it now.

The good news is that whilst there is so much commentary since Eurydice's death that has been frighteningly familiar, there have also been many respectful male voices, men who want better, not just because they have sisters, wives and daughters, but who want better because we all want to live in a place that is safe. These men want better because that is the right thing to do. The good news is there are these voices in the debate but it is time for those men to do more just as women have done more and have borne the brunt of this for generations. We need men to now step up and do more. Call out your male friend who speaks disrespectfully about or to women. Call out your mate who is sexist or chauvinistic. Do it, and do it every single time.

There was a great article this week by Konrad Marshall in *The Age* titled, 'After Eurydice, What Should Men Do?' He said that as well as calling out harassers, it can also be powerful to call in an

offender. Invite him to think about the impact of his behaviour and let him know that he might be talking more loudly than he thinks or scaring someone. If it is not possible to do that safely, approach the person being harassed and check directly with them - are you okay, do you need help, is there anything I can do to help you?

I have also had messages from parents of boys who are talking to their young men about these things, changing the next generation. I have had male friends tell me they are now becoming more aware of their presence on buses, in the street; more aware of the space they take up and of the potential impact of their presence on the women around them. It is not too hard. I do have a good news campaign to share.

In Alberta, Canada, a successful campaign to change men's behaviour with regard to sexual assault has been in operation since 2011. It recognises that while most men will never commit a sexual offence, the majority of offences are committed by men and in that state up to 97 per cent. In other words, not all men are offenders, but most offenders are men. The campaign is called Don't Be That Guy and it puts the focus on those who commit the crime rather than those who are victims of sexual violence. It recognises that the target of behavioural change has to be those who have choice in what they are doing - that, of course, being offenders. The campaign has been a success and rates of sexual assault and violence have decreased as a direct result.

As long as we tell women to modify their behaviour, we tell women that it is their fault. When we tell women that they just need to try harder, we tell women they are to blame, and we have been telling women for decades to change their own behaviour. It does not work. Eurydice Dixon changed her behaviour, she took those precautions, and it did not work.

So I say to Eurydice Dixon and those who knew her and loved her, we remember you and we honour you. To Anita Cobby, we remember you and we honour you. To Janine Balding, we remember you and we honour you. To Jill Meagher, we remember you and we honour you. To Stephanie Scott, we remember you and we honour you. To Ai Yu, we remember you and we honour you. To Caroline Willis, we remember you and we honour you. To Karen Ashcroft, we remember you and we honour you. To Teah Luckwell, we remember you and we honour you. To Ingrid Driver Enalanga, we remember you and we honour you. To all the women who have died at the hands of strangers or at the hands of people they knew and trusted and who have should have been respecting their lives, we remember you and we honour you.

### **Centenary of Anzac**

[8.19 p.m.]

**Mr BARNETT** (Lyons - Minister for Resources) - Madam Speaker, I am pleased to speak on the adjournment about the Centenary of Anzac and this is our last year in this 100-year anniversary. We are heading towards Remembrance Day on 11 November this year. We can be proud as Tasmanians to know that Tasmania's enlistments in our armed services are amongst the highest proportion in Australia.

We can be proud of our 10 500 veterans, ex-servicemen and women who live here in Tasmania. We support them, remember them, honour them and their families. Last weekend, on Sunday, I had the honour of being at the Boer War commemoration in Launceston. We remembered the 41 Tasmanians who died during the first and second Boer Wars from 1899 to 1902. I particularly

recognise Reg Watson for his leadership in organising and speaking at that event. He delivered a wonderful message. Likewise, Frank Madill, the MC, and the Launceston RSL Band.

I recognise and acknowledge Jennifer Houston MP, member for Bass, who likewise with me was very pleased to be there at that special commemoration and acknowledge her long family involvement and history in the armed services.

Anzac Day this past year has been very special indeed with an estimated 50 000 Tasmanians turning out to honour those who served and sacrificed so much for us and for our sake. In that regard I want to recognise RSL Tasmania and its many sub-branches across the state for holding over 125 services on Anzac Day at 82 separate locations around Tasmania - a tremendous effort, well done and congratulations.

**Mr Bacon** - Hear, hear.

**Mr BARNETT** - I want to note some of the upcoming anniversaries and special events between now and 11 November. We have the 100th anniversary of the first and second battles of Villers-Bretonneux, the Battle of Fromelles, coming up in just a few weeks time, and the breaking of the Hindenburg Line, the 75th anniversary of Hellfire Pass and the Thai-Burma Railway, a place I visited with my wife some years ago on Anzac Day. It was the most special occasion that I will never forget. We have the 50th anniversary of the Battles of Fire Support Base, Coral and Balmoral in Vietnam. We have the Vietnam Veterans Day on 18 August. That will be a very special day for our Vietnam veterans and their families.

The themes of service, sacrifice, mateship and courage shown by our diggers rings true. From that service is the freedom that has provided us today the freedoms that we are enjoying now will be honoured.

I am pleased to be part of the Hodgman Liberal Government with the Centenary of Anzac grants and acknowledge some of the recipients. I acknowledge the Northern Midlands RSL Sub-Branch for Remembrance Day 2018. They have a special service in Longford to commemorate the 100 years since the World War 1 Armistice. The RAAF Association Tasmanian Division, the anniversary of the Battle of Britain commemoration of the air force project, the Tasman Peninsular Historical Society, the Nubeena Foreshore Trail and the King Island Historical Society Beyond the Seas commemorating King Island's Anzac projects.

During World War 1, 15 485 Tasmanian service men and women who enlisted. Sadly, 2432 paid the ultimate sacrifice and lost their lives. We remember them at this special time of year.

I recognise the Frank McDonald Memorial Prize and the wonderful investment of past governments and our Government to this initiative. It is fantastic. Ivan Dean MLC participated this year and the tour was very successful. I followed it on Facebook and look forward to meeting the young students and the team in a week or two with Ivan Dean. I encourage all grade 9 students across Tasmania to participate and be involved in the essay competition for 2019. It is currently open to year 9 students from government and non-government schools, and students educated at home at that year level.

The RSL had their 103rd annual state congress in Launceston last month. The congress was attended by approximately 200 people, 39 sub-branches were represented and officially opened by Wing Commander Sharon Boun, Retired. Sharon is the author of a military memoir *One Woman's*

*War and Peace: A Nurse's Journey in the Royal Australian Air Force.* She gave a wonderful presentation. Anita Dow, my shadow and colleague from Braddon was there, and I acknowledge her special interest in Veterans Affairs. I know that like me, she was moved by Sharon's presentation, as was the rest of the audience.

I encourage Tasmanians, RSLs, service men and women and their families to participate on the Centenary of Anzac website and share their stories, their special memories and participate so that we can all learn more about the wonderful contributions that have been made.

We have had the 50th anniversary of two key battles of the Vietnam War, the fire support bases, Coral and Balmoral. That was on Sunday 13 May. I have already mentioned Vietnam Veterans Day, 18 August.

The Anzac portal, education and community awareness, as put forward by the federal government through the Department of Veterans Affairs is free. It is a dedicated resource for all Australians wishing to learn more about Australia's experience of war. The portal brings together personal stories, historical information and educational resources. I thank my federal colleague, Darren Chester, for his terrific leadership. I caught up with him last month and look forward to greeting him and hosting him again in Tasmania in the near future.

The Royal Society of Tasmania will be hosting its next lecture on Friday 10 August. Canadian historian Professor Margaret McMillan will be presenting *War and the making of the modern world*. It will be a great presentation. She has a background from the University of Oxford. It is a free event at the Stanley Burbury Theatre at the University of Tasmania Hobart campus.

Veterans Health Week will run from 21 to 30 September. The theme this year will be on nutrition and Darren Chester MP, Minister for Veterans Affairs, has announced funding applications are open to ESOs and community groups to support them in the development and delivery of Veterans Health Week events and initiatives.

Reserve Forces Day is coming up on 1 July 2018. I pay tribute to Reservists who make a fantastic contribution to Australia's defence capabilities.

In conclusion, there is much happening across our community. We will be commemorating on 11 November this year. There will be some Centenary of Armistice events. Two special remembrance concerts have been planned for the Albert Hall in Launceston alongside the Centenary of Armistice Remembrance Concert. A commemoration dinner is also scheduled for the Albert Hall in Launceston. Get your tickets through the RSL Tasmania and provide support to an ex-service man or woman and their family members. Say thank you to them and pay honour to them at this special time.

**Members -** Hear, hear.

## **Violence Against Women**

[8.28 p.m.]

**Dr BROAD** (Braddon) - Madam Speaker, without giving the game away, I would like to start with a riddle. Some of you may have heard it. It goes something like this. There is a father and a son driving to an event in a car and there is a car accident. Tragically the father dies instantly in

the crash. The small child is in a serious condition and is taken to the emergency ward of the biggest hospital they can find. They bypass all the small hospitals and go to the big hospital. This is a complex accident and the child needs no amount of surgery that normal emergency doctors can perform so they call for the professor of emergency medicine. The professor gets suited up, puts the gloves on, comes in says, 'My god, I cannot operate on this child for this child is my son'. How is that possible? It is very simple. It was the child's mother.

What the riddle reveals, if that does not quickly click in your brains, it is obvious it is the child's mother, then that reveals to yourself that you have inherent bias. How could a professor of emergency medicine instantly be recognised as a woman? That highlights some of the issues that come into play that previous contributions have made tonight.

This is part of the context that violence against women is born: this unconscious bias and conscious bias. We talk about rapes and murders of women like Eurydice Dixon but also in the past, Jill Meagher, who was murdered walking home after having a few drinks, Masa Vukotic, a 17-year-old school girl who was raped and murdered after walking through a Doncaster Park in daylight; or Stephanie Scott, a teacher who was raped and murdered in Leeton, New South Wales.

When we talk about Stephanie Scott - and this was where it really came home to me - after her rape and murder and the media coverage that came afterwards, I attended a council meeting as a central coast councillor where we discussed it, and one of the councillors, who shall remain nameless, said, 'Well, what was she doing working back on a weekend preparing her class?' These are the sorts of excuses people make - the victim blaming. It really hit home to me because my wife is a teacher who works on weekends sometimes, and I thought, 'How dare you say that? What was she doing working? She was doing her job.' This is the whole thing with the victim blaming that goes on, especially with rapes and murders of women. What was Jill Meagher doing? Having a few drinks. Why was she not protecting herself? What was Masa Vukotic doing walking through a park in daylight, and what was Eurydice Dixon doing? Why did she not catch a cab?

The thing about this is - and this is a man problem - you should not be saying to women, 'Don't get raped and murdered. Do whatever you can not to get raped and murdered.' The thing that we need to do as men is not rape and murder. In previous contributions members talked about the language. I agree 100 per cent. The language when we talk about these things is a disgrace. Eurydice Dixon being murdered is not a tragedy, it is an outrage. We should be outraged and indeed people are outraged. That is the language we should use.

One thing I would add about these murders is that I am thankful I cannot name off the top of my head all the perpetrators of these crimes, because I agree that the focus should be on the victim. In a way the perpetrator should be anonymous, apart from recognising the things that led to him doing what he did - and it is a 'he' doing it. These things have a lead up. A man does not go from zero to rape and murder. There are steps in between, and we need to intervene there. Men especially need to intervene to make sure women are not raped and murdered. It is not that women should prevent themselves being raped and murdered, it is that men should not rape and murder.

As a parent, this is something I focus on too. I have two girls and a boy. With my daughters I do not put any limits on them. I do not tell them what they can be - if they work hard, they can be anything they want. If they want to be a nurse, fine; if they want to be an engineer or a mathematician or a scientist or, heaven forbid, a politician, they can do it. The choice is theirs, and it is the same with my son. However, importantly, there is no excuse for my son, even though he is the youngest, for hitting either of his sisters. It is not acceptable and what we have to do as a

society is those two things: we have to raise our girls to have limitless expectations on what they can do, because they can do anything, but we also need to teach our sons and ourselves not to rape and murder. This is a man problem, not a women problem. The fact is that men are not being raped and murdered by female strangers in public places, workplaces and so on. Men need to be the solution, not the problem.

### **National Ploughing Championships Shene Estate - Double Gold, San Francisco World Spirit Competition**

[8.34 p.m.]

**Mr SHELTON** (Lyons) - Madam Speaker, I concur with the previous speaker. This evening I want to briefly mention a couple of events that I went on recently. The National Ploughing Championships were held at Chanak on the property of Michael and Robert Bayles. On 8 and 9 June this year, the Bayles brothers hosted the competition for all around Tasmania. The ploughing competition had agriculturalist ploughmen and women, because Robert's daughter, Amanda, was ploughing in the state competition the week before and she ploughed in that competition. It is mainly an open-cabbed tractor. The conventional plough is a two-furrow plough that sits on the back with the mull board turned over so there are two separate sections. With this plough and the two-furrow mull board, you go up and back. There is also the one-way plough, which Michael competes in. The national competition was held on 8 June, while the state competition was held the previous week.

In the national competition each state has seven competitors. In this case they came from the mainland to Tasmania on 15 and 16 June to plough in the competition held at Cressy at Chanak the Bayles brothers. Last year it was at Cowra; this time it was in Tasmania, and next year it will be in Victoria. The national competition sees the seven best placegetters from each state in the conventional ploughing competition - seven in the conventional plough - and the four best placegetters in the reversible plough section compete to represent Australia at the world contest. The world contest this year is in Germany, and next year it will be in the United States of America.

The winners of this year's state competition will go to next year's world competition. The winners at Cressy over the weekend were two Victorians, father and son Brett and Scott Loughridge. Brett won the reversible competition and Scott won the conventional one. We congratulate everybody for competing but in particular the two winners. As I understand it, this is the first father and son duo who will be travelling to Lake of Woods, a county in Minnesota USA, next year. To obtain the top level in the field is a great achievement and it takes many years of refined skills to achieve that level in the competition. I congratulate the winners.

I pay tribute to the Bayles brothers, Michael and Robert, for allowing these competitions to take place on their property and, in turn, building the international platform ploughing stakes in regional Tasmania and making that open to the world.

People may have read that David and his team at Shene Estate at Pontville won the double gold in the San Francisco World Spirit Competition for their Poltergeist Gin. That is a fantastic effort and a great achievement. We know of the burgeoning Tasmanian spirit industry in whisky, gin and other beverages. They also handed the keys to the Shene Estate over to the Mercedes crowd who came in and filmed the launch of their new Mercedes Benz X-Class ute in April, a great way to showcase the beautiful Shene Estate and also Tasmania. They have also been involved with the Poltergeist Gin, and Mackey Whisky was used to celebrate the McLaren Centre, the most track-

focused McLaren road car ever built. The launch was in Melbourne in April and featured guest speakers from the McLaren team, including the F1 driver, Stoffel van Doorne and the race director.

We have moved from just producing gin and whisky into advertisements that go around the world, one that feature world-class cars such as the Mercedes Benz X-Class ute and the McLaren Centre. That is a fantastic achievement for Shene and great advertising for Tasmania.

## **Violence Against Women**

[8.39 p.m.]

**Ms STANDEN** (Franklin) - Madam Speaker, I rise on the sad occasion of Eurydice Dixon's death last Wednesday and extend my deepest condolences to her family and loved ones. I extend my thoughts to everyone who has lost loved ones through gender violence and anyone who has been a victim or a survivor of such an attack. This kind of violence brings to mind our experiences.

On Monday I attended a heartbreaking Reclaim the Park candlelight vigil. I congratulate Sapphire Grant, the organiser of this event and the powerful speakers, including our own Michelle O'Byrne, who did a fantastic job.

One of the speakers said, 'What can men do?' They acknowledged the men who attended the event and challenged those present to get their heads together and resolved not just to stand in solidarity with women, but to resolve to move to action. She spoke about situational awareness and my colleagues, Michelle O'Byrne and Ella Haddad, spoke so powerfully about what actions all women innately take to defend themselves against such violence: leaving messages, avoiding dark areas, crossing the road, carrying their keys in their hands and such.

Ms Haddad mentioned the article by Konrad Marshall in *The Age* on 19 June titled 'After Eurydice What Should Men Do?'. It was an interesting article. He talked about being aware of their own physical presence. When getting off a bus or walking behind a woman, showing sensitivity, thinking about how their physical presence might be perceived; hanging back or indeed walking ahead. Using their body language. Crossing to the other side of the road, or even talking on the phone to create some jovial conversation, even if it was a faux conversation, to create a sense of safety for that woman.

What else can men do? As other speakers have said, number 1 is an easy one: don't be a perpetrator and don't be a bystander because the behaviour you walk past is the behaviour you condone. Number 2 is to be aware of your physicality on the street but also at home and even in the workplace. Do not stand over a woman. Take care with your voice. Do not use your tone to speak over women. Number 3 is talk to your sons. When I am walking down the street and I come across a group of youths, even though they are probably laughing amongst themselves and having fun, are they aware that the very presence of a group of young testosterone charged men is incredibly threatening to women? I cannot count the number of times I have avoided walking down the street or in a mall because I have spotted from the end of the mall a group of youths. Be aware of their behaviour in groups in particular in a mall, and in the playground, as they are growing up. I talk to my 10-year-old son about how he should respect women. So men, teach your sons respect and also self-awareness.

As an adult survivor of gender violence myself, I say, Eurydice Dixon will not be forgotten. Tragically, her life has touched millions of people around the country. Despite the heartbreaking

discussion and indeed outrage, this is a very important discussion because victim blaming is not okay. The onus is largely on men to join us to bring about cultural change to stop women being raped and murdered.

**Members** - Hear, hear.

### **Violence Against Women**

[8.45 p.m.]

**Ms BUTLER** (Lyons) - Madam Speaker, I also reaffirm my sadness. I also attended the vigil on the Parliament Lawns the other night. It was quite beautiful but very sad. I attended with my children, two sons and a daughter. I believe that is where we will find the most significant change to violence in general but violence especially towards women. Through educating generations of men as they grow up, teach them to respect women as their equals. Hopefully one day, in generations, we will see a positive change. When is enough going to be enough?

I was going to rise to talk about another issue but it does not feel quite appropriate to do that now. I would like to confirm that there was a lady in the community I am quite involved with. Her name is Jodi Eaton who was also murdered and assaulted. That community has an annual vigil to Jodi. I hope she is never forgotten. I know, Jacquie Petrusma, you have been involved in some of the vigils for Jodi as well. It is an issue which affects us all. It is combination of absolute frustration, anger, grief and just this horrible sense of reality that your freedoms that we all try to experience here in Australia as modern, progressive women can be ripped away from you so quickly. All you need is a loose cannon and to be in a situation where you are vulnerable. We all feel those vulnerabilities. I travelled the world extensively a lot of the time on my own and I had amazing sense of nothing bad would ever happen to me. I was mugged at one stage. I know what it feels like to be in that position. Luckily I was a survivor of that violence. I count my lucky stars that I was able to find my way out of that situation. Most women I know have a story. We all have a story. We should not have a story but we do.

I will continue to be vigilant especially with my sons. I have been raised by a feminist to believe that I am equal with men. Unfortunately, there are quite a few males in our community who believe that we are not equal. I believe women have a responsibility to ensure we educate our children but also to remain vigilant with that education. Men also need to make sure that they view themselves as equal to women. We can hopefully, one day, try to amend the power differentiation between the genders.

**The House adjourned at 8.50 p.m.**