

Hawker Britton

Government Relations Strategy

Tasmanian Labor Leader Rebecca White's Keynote Address

On Friday 28 April Tasmanian Labor leader Rebecca White gave her first keynote [speech](#) since her election as leader on 17 March 2017. Ms White outlined her vision for the State's infrastructure projects and committed to overhaul the State's skills and training system.

In a speech to business and community leaders, Ms White highlighted her belief that the reforms of the Tasmanian Labor governments between 1998-2014 remain the main drivers of Tasmania's current economic growth. Ms White set out her agenda to achieve the "next wave of transformative projects", to unlock further economic development for the State.

Infrastructure

Ms White identified three key infrastructure projects for an incoming Labor government:

- Fixing Launceston's ageing water and sewage system;
- Relocating the sewage works at Macquarie point; and
- Upgrading or relocating the Cameron Bay sewage treatment plant.

Ms White flagged the opportunity to collaborate with the private sector and superannuation funds to unlock more than a billion dollars in investment to boost Tasmania's infrastructure spend and provide a pipeline of funding for future projects in the State.

To view Tasmanian Labor's infrastructure policy in these areas, click [here](#).

Skills and Training

Industry Advisory Councils

Ms White identified the pathway to employment for young people as a significant issue for the State, with skills gaps in key industries. Ms White announced that a Tasmanian Labor government would partner with business and industry to establish Industry Advisory Councils.

Industry Advisory Councils will play an influential role in ensuring skills and training programs equip job-seekers with the requisite skills that industry require, directing how TAFE funding is spent to meet workforce requirements. In order to facilitate the Councils' formal involvement in the delivery of skills and training programs, the functions of Skills Tasmania will be brought within the Department of Education.

The Councils will be responsible for producing Industry Development Plans for crucial industries, including:

- High value agriculture;
- Tourism;





- Advanced manufacturing;
- Renewable energy;
- University education; and
- Marine and Antarctic research.

Apprenticeship Bonus Payment Scheme

A Tasmanian Labor government would implement a program that creates up to 1000 new apprenticeships in its first term. The Scheme would provide a total of \$3000 per new apprentice or trainee position to employers. This sum is split into \$1500 to offset the upfront costs of the appointment of the new worker, with an additional \$1500 upon successful completion of the apprenticeship.

Further information

For more information, please contact your Hawker Britton consultant [Phil Reed](#) on +61 419 319 362.

To access Tasmanian Labor's media release on Rebecca White's keynote address, click [here](#).