

Tasmanian Labor's election policy commitments

March 2018

This Occasional Paper will outline Tasmanian Labor's policy commitments made by the Tasmanian Labor Leader, Rebecca White, ahead of the Saturday 3 March 2018 general election.

Relevant policy commitments of an elected White Government across portfolio areas include:

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The economy, tax, jobs and consumer protection

- Establish eight Industry Advisory Councils to engage with government around the future of each sector and advise where skills and training budgets should be spent in eight industry areas. Roadmaps for each sector would be developed for respective areas by the relevant Council as a priority. Identified areas include:
 - Minerals, Energy and Advanced Manufacturing
 - Innovation and Information and Communication Technologies
 - Primary Industries and Forestry
 - Education, Science, Research and the Antarctic
 - Tourism, Hospitality, Festivals, Heritage (built and natural environment) and the Arts
 - Building and Construction
 - Wellbeing, Care and Community Development
 - Employment, Regional Development and Trade
- Establish a Regional Development Unit to identify and advise government of opportunities for jobs and economic development in regional Tasmania.
- Introduce payroll tax rebate for new trainees and apprentices for in demand areas.
- Commit to reducing the cost of petrol, gas and diesel in Tasmania by ensuring the non-discounted prices on display boards and introducing the daily advertising of price on the commissioner's website to be overseen by a fuel price oversight officer.

Infrastructure and projects

- Abolish the role of Coordinator General to fund the proposed new Regional Development Unit.
- Re-establish the Industrial Supplies Office to assist small to medium businesses in participating in the procurement process.
- Allow engineering and environmental impact assessments on the Warratah Dam decommissions before TasWater and industry talks continue.

Manufacturing and industry

- Leverage schemes such as the \$1 billion Australian Manufacturing Future Fund to invest in Launceston industry base and technology-based opportunities.

Energy

- Break down the Department of State Growth into the original departments of the Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources and Department of Economic Growth and Regional Development.

Transport

- Create a new Passenger Transport Corporation with state-wide responsibility for integration, co-ordination and contracting of mass transit passenger services. The new Passenger Transport Corporation also will ensure private and public operators are given equal opportunity to service the new expanded network.
- \$42.5 billion over four years to improve Launceston road infrastructure and transport services.
- \$40 million to replace the Charles street bridge, Launceston.
- \$14 million to the preparation works for the Hobart to northern suburbs rail corridor.
- \$10 million over ten years to enhance interchange and bus stop infrastructure, develop real time apps and install digital displays across Tasmania.
- \$5 million for, a to be determined number of, new suburban buses over ten years.
- \$3 million in funding for Smart Cities with opportunities in smart traffic signals to minimise congestion and motion activated pedestrian smart lighting.
- \$1 million for the development of a Launceston Regional Transport Strategy which will include a road map for a national model concept for electric and autonomous vehicles.

Tourism

- Work with local government, residents and industry stakeholders to develop a West Coast Tourism masterplan that will unlock millions of dollars' worth of private capital.
- Establish a \$50 million regional infrastructure fund to deliver a strategic framework for future investment in regional infrastructure projects.
- \$15 million in private sector investment in the development of a sustainable Cradle Mountain transport system and rejuvenated visitor infrastructure.
- \$8 million to construct new walker huts, renovate existing huts and enhance visitor services at Cradle Mountain.
- \$3 million of funding to develop a tourist focused heritage train on existing rail infrastructure.
- \$500,000 towards a Beauty Point Stage One Beautification Project.
- Develop the Styx/Giants treehouse trail lining with Tourism Tasmania alongside timber communities and environmental organisations to attract public and private investment.
- Upgrades for the Strahan Visitor Centre and The Sara Island project.
- Conduct a Regional Airport feasibility study at Strahan.

Environment

- Direct the Tasmanian Climate Change Office to develop a comprehensive climate adaptation plan in collaboration with industry, taking into consideration the recent Hydro Tasmania energy crisis and the disease problems experienced by our marine aquaculture industries.

Housing and planning

- \$106 million Housing Action Plan to build 900 more public housing homes.
- Introduce short term accommodation reforms:
 - Making the necessary changes to the planning scheme to clarify that short stay accommodation in primary places of residence does not constitute a change of use.
 - Requiring owners of investment properties for short stay accommodation to register with their local council under a streamlined process.
 - Introducing a Short-Term Accommodation Code of Conduct to promote good relationships between all stakeholders including property owners, managers, guests, neighbors, local communities, local councils and government.
- Activate the Launceston CBD shops and restaurant space for residential development.

Agriculture

- Replace the Marine Farming Planning Review Panel with a new Independent Aquaculture Advisory Panel, tasked with requesting and reviewing monitoring data, assessing compliance and providing independent expert advice to the EPA Director, while continuing to assess new lease proposals previously undertaken by the MFPRP. Functions include:
 - The Panel would include two independent aquaculture scientists and an independent chair. The expertise of the panel would include fish farming, biosecurity and fish health.
 - The Panel will be responsible for regularly benchmarking the Tasmanian salmon industry against world's best practice.
 - Conducting public consultation, independent of industry during the assessment process of new leases.
 - Monitoring salmon lease compliance using a risk-based approach. New leases and leases with greater risk profiles would be subject to the greatest scrutiny.
 - Developing a robust biosecurity management plan for the salmon industry within 12 months.
 - Requesting additional monitoring if deemed appropriate.
- Conduct a review into the effectiveness of the Tasmanian Association for Recreational Fishing (TARFish) and ensuring they are properly funded and resourced as the peak representative body for recreational fishers.
- Require a biosecurity plan for Storm Bay to be developed to manage environment and fish health.
- The Okehampton lease would only be reduced to levels comparative to established leases once continued compliance can be demonstrated.
- Commission an independent review of Macquarie Harbour to develop a long term, evidenced-based plan for management of the harbour.
- Commission a study into seal movements and eating habits to better understand their impact on commercial fish farms and the wild fishery.

Pokies

- Phase out all poker machines from Tasmanian pubs and clubs by 2023.

- Provide up to \$55 million in transition funding. This will include:
 - \$20 million in transitional support for venues that choose to surrender their poker machines prior to 2023.
 - A \$25 million loan pool to provide long term, low-interest loans to businesses transitioning to new business models.
 - \$500,000 in grants to sporting clubs.
 - \$500,000 for business development advice.
 - \$4 million for staff retraining and professional development.
- Establish a Club Sustainability Fund of \$5 million for clubs to access beyond 2023 to ensure important clubs, like RSLs, can continue to provide services to their community.

Training and Education

- Ensure TasTAFE will be allocated no less than 70 per cent of the total skills and training budget to ensure the training needs of key industry sectors are met.
- Set targets for apprentice and trainee numbers for government departments.
- Approximately \$85 million in upgrading schools from prep to collage, including a new Hobart High School.

Health

- Deliver a Launceston General Hospital and Health Precinct masterplan to be supported by \$60 million in funding for priority projects.
- Introduce Medi-hotels in Hobart, Launceston and Burnie.
- Establish a registration scheme for medicinal cannabis patients, carers and suppliers to protect registered patients, carers and suppliers from criminal liability and confiscation of medicinal cannabis supplies.
- Immediately introduce state legislation to:
 - Decriminalise the possession and use of cannabis for medicinal purposes for people with severe epilepsy, multiple sclerosis, cancer or HIV/AIDS treatment and severe chronic pain, where two specialists, approved with other conditions, to be considered by an Independent Medical Advisory Committee.
 - Legislate for the licensed cultivation, manufacture and dispensing of medicinal cannabis in Tasmania.
 - Allow any registered practitioner with a PBS prescriber number to apply for an authority to prescribe medicinal cannabis.
- Trial a fixed service transport service for two years between Launceston General, Mersey and North West Regional Hospital.
- \$560 million to be invested in Tasmanian health professional jobs.
- Six new Child and Family Centres around the state.

Further information

Further information on Tasmanian Labor's policy commitments are available [here](#).

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