



22 August 2017

Guy Barnett, Minister for Building and Construction

Supporting and growing Tasmania's Construction Industry

Tasmania's building and construction industries have no stronger supporters than the Hodgman Liberal Government.

Over the weekend at our State Conference we announced a target to increase the number of people employed in Tasmania's building and construction industry by 25 per cent by 2022.

These industries are important to the future of Tasmania's economic success and the Liberal Government has a proven track record of creating jobs in this sector. We currently have more than 22,000 people employed in the sector, compared with just 16,100 in the last year of the Labor-Green Government.

In this year's state budget we extended the \$20,000 First Home Builders Grant for another 12 months, and made important changes to stamp duty saving home builders around \$7,500 on a standard house and land purchase.

Today in Launceston I visited the site of one of many new homes being built by Wilson Homes, a Tasmanian business already employing over 60 staff, engaging more than 200 sub-contractors and building 320 homes a year around the state. Increased demand from Tasmanian families looking to build a home will mean more work and more jobs at local businesses like Wilson Homes.

That's why the announcement of an ambitious target to grow the workforce by 25 per cent compared to the average of the previous five-year period has been warmly welcomed by the Master Builders Association and HIA Tasmania.

We are also creating jobs in building and construction by investing more than \$2 billion in major works and capital upgrades, which has sparked a new sense of confidence across the building and construction sector.

Large infrastructure projects such as the University of Tasmania developments in Launceston and Burnie, and the RHH redevelopment in Hobart are supporting large numbers of jobs, and the Hodgman Liberal Government's announcement that we will increase the long-term average investment in public infrastructure will mean many more jobs will be created in the future.

The growth of the workforce will be underpinned by our goal to achieve a 40 per cent increase in apprentices and trainees in the private sector by 2025, supported through initiatives such as our \$25 million for a Youth Employment Strategy that came into effect on July 1 this year, which includes incentives for businesses employing apprentices, trainees and young people.

Job creation has long been a priority for this Government, and we will continue to build your future by creating more jobs for Tasmanians.