



17 October 2018

Guy Barnett, Minister for Building and Construction

Stealing Legislation Tabled

Today I tabled legislation which makes it easier for retailers to protect their stock from being stolen as part of the Government's commitment to support small business in Tasmania

The Bill will allow Tasmanian retailers to make it a condition of entry that customer bags can be inspected, helping reduce losses from stealing.

The *Security and Investigations Agents Amendment Bill 2018*, which has been tabled today, fulfils the Government's election commitment to crackdown on stealing.

The cost of stealing in Tasmania has been estimated at around \$200 million or more per year, and while this is a significant cost to businesses, ultimately the consumer pays with higher prices and increased cost of living pressures.

The Bill makes it easier for retailers to protect their stock from retail theft, by providing an exemption to their employees from requiring a licence to undertake bag checks.

This action by the Hodgman Liberal Government will not only help protect the livelihood of Tasmanian retailers by helping to prevent stealing but will also protect consumers by ensuring that bag checks are carried out in an appropriate and regulated way.