



## MEDIA RELEASE

# Taking Tasmania to the next level: Liberal campaign launch speech

**11 February, 2018**

**Will Hodgman, Premier**

We come together today as a team that has for the last 4 years delivered very good government for Tasmania.

We have delivered on what we promised.

And Tasmania is a prouder, stronger, more confident place to be.

Our economy is much stronger, with over 10,000 more jobs for Tasmanians than when we came into government.

Our Budget is back in balance.

Hospital waiting lists are lower, and our kids are doing better at school.

These are the facts.

Tasmania is a very different place now than when we came into government in

---

2014.

But today I want to talk about the future.

Because our best days are ahead of us. There's so much more to do, and I am itching to roll up my sleeves and get on with the job. But we've got an election to win first.

And this election is important because it will determine our State's future, your future.

And our plan is to take Tasmania to the next level. And we have the team to do it.

It's a plan to create a stronger economy, to help our businesses to grow, and to create more jobs for Tasmanians.

It's a plan to invest more into our schools, to lift our education results and to give our kids their best shot in life.

It's a plan to build a better health system and to treat more Tasmanians sooner.

It's a plan keeping Tasmanians safe, with more police on the beat, and we will toughen our laws.

It's a plan to keep the cost of living down.

And to protect our precious way of life; because we live in the best place on earth, and want to keep it that way.

And it's a plan to continue to build the infrastructure our growing State needs.

---

It locks in the momentum we've built of the last four years.

We will continue to aim high, because there is no reason why Tasmania can't be number one.

Just last week it was reported that business confidence is the highest in the nation. A far cry from where it was just four years ago.

We promised to kick-start our economy, and we did.

We promised to fix the budget, and we have.

We've returned the Budget to surplus four years ahead of schedule, for the first time in a decade, and we've eliminated net debt. For the first time ever, the total State Sector is net debt free!

But our plan to take Tasmania to the next level is about ensuring all Tasmanians feel the benefit of a strong economy and of a balanced Budget.

Already during this campaign we've announced a number of new policies.

For instance - to cut payroll tax to create more jobs; to attract new business to our regions; to build an army of apprentices, giving young Tasmanians a foot in the door for a lifelong career and our businesses the skilled workers they need to grow.

We will invest more to build a competitive, innovative farming sector with funding for the next phase of irrigation schemes to boost production and support more jobs.

We will invest a record amount across the State to de-congest our roads, so you spend more time with your family and friends and less time stuck in traffic.

---

While power prices are lower now than when we came into government - our plan is to break away from the higher prices of the national market and for Tasmanians to pay the lowest prices in the nation, and for our State to become totally renewable energy self-sufficient.

We'll give a land tax holiday on newly-built long-term rental properties and a stamp duty discount to help more Tasmanians into a home of their own, and to continue the boom in our building sector along with the \$125 million next stage of our affordable housing strategy, providing up to 1500 new homes for vulnerable Tasmanians.

This is just a small selection of the many positive new policies we have announced already to take Tasmania to the next level.

Friends, our record speaks for itself: we've kept our promises, and we have delivered what we said we would.

And Tasmanians can trust me and my strong team to deliver.

Today, I am announcing what we will do to deliver the single biggest boost to health care in our State's history.

Good health care for Tasmanians wherever they live is a top priority for my government.

And while we have made strong progress - we have reduced waiting lists to the lowest ever on record; we have employed more hospital staff, and we are opening more beds - there is a lot more to do.

This is the plan to provide the resources and the support needed to bring our health system up to the standard Tasmanians deserve.

---

And I make this very important point.

This is only possible because we have grown the economy – as we said we would.

And we have worked bloody hard to get the Budget back into balance.

This is the reason why it is so important for governments to manage the state's finances well so we can invest more into the services Tasmanians need.

And, as our record shows - Tasmanians can trust us to manage the Budget well.

So today, I can announce that a re-elected majority Liberal Government will invest \$757 million more into our hospitals and health system over 6 years.

It is the biggest ever boost to health care in the State's history – building on the record in our most recent budget.

It is a clear demonstration of our commitment to keep improving our health system, and to deliver the health services Tasmanians need and deserve.

This funding will open and fully staff an additional 298 new hospital beds across the State – a 20 per cent increase in capacity.

That's 250 hospital beds at the new Royal Hobart Hospital – our major tertiary hospital – once the rebuild (my government started) is finished in 2019.

And it will deliver a 50 percent increase in intensive care support.

In the North, it supports an extra 40 beds at the LGH, in a brand new ward to be

---

built on the site.

And, in the North West, there'll be eight extra beds, and new health services on site.

And to deliver this massive new increase in resources we will employ one thousand three hundred and thirty two new full time equivalent hospital and health staff.

That's 802 more nurses – a 22 per cent increase – working in our hospitals and health system to treat more Tasmanians sooner. It's 158 more doctors; 128 more allied health professionals; 182 more operational staff who provide critical support to those on the frontline of health.

In terms of what this means for Tasmanians needing health care, let me put this into perspective:

It means that within six years, we'll be able to admit 30,000 more Tasmanians into our hospitals for medical care each year.

That's how we'll take Tasmania's health care to the next level.

Friends, we have a very important election campaign to win.

And it is a very important election, because it will determine the direction our State is heading in.

It is a choice between continuing the progress we have made; or a change where you don't know what you will get.

There is no doubt that Tasmania is a better place today, than it was four years ago.

---

It hasn't happened by chance. It has happened because we have a plan – a real plan - that is delivering results.

And it's because I have a great team to deliver it – who I want to thank.

Our plan is to take Tasmania to the next level.

But the only way we will be able to do it is if we are re-elected into majority government on March the third.

So today, I am asking Tasmanians for another four years - so we can continue the job we've started.

---