

Check against delivery

Tasmania Needs Change

Budget reply speech - 3 June 2025

Introduction - headline critique

Honourable Speaker.

Tasmania needs change because the Liberal Party can no longer be trusted with the State's finances.

This is a budget that will send the State broke.

And if you can't manage the budget, you cannot govern this state.

It is now obvious that, once again, it will be left to Labor to clean up the Liberals' mess.

The Liberals are racking up \$11 billion of debt through mismanagement and waste, with the interest bill set to hit more than \$650 million every year - and they plan to put that on the credit card too.

It's a mess that could take decades to repair.

Tasmania needs change because the Liberal Party cannot be trusted with the assets Tasmanians have built together over the past 100 years.

The Premier plans to sell our power network, our public transport and our ports. He's even broken his promise to keep his hands off the Hydro.

When you sell public assets:

- Prices go up
- Jobs go offshore
- And the dividends that help pay for schools and hospitals disappear.

This is the worst budget in Tasmanian history. It should be an embarrassment to every member of this minority Liberal government – yet last Thursday it was applauded on the Liberal government benches.

Tasmanians have read the headlines over the last week.

- The Age of Austerity
- Bad Apple Isle: debt doubled, assets offloaded
- Eleven Digits of Debt

Some will have read the analysis from Saul Eslake who said there is now a 'significant risk' Tasmania's credit rating is downgraded.

This budget is an abrogation of the duty of any Premier and Treasurer to do what is in the best interests of the state.

It is a budget that serves the hopeless Minority Liberal Government for the next 12 months, not for Tasmania's future.

It is a budget that mortgages Tasmania's future.

A budget that builds in 10 record cash deficits in a row.

A budget that builds so much debt that – if implemented across the estimates – will end in Tasmania needing a bailout.

It is reckless. Reprehensible. And soon, thanks to Labor, budgets like this will actually be unlawful without the approval of two thirds of Parliament.

It is a budget that breaches nearly every one of its own fiscal rules. In the not-unlikely event the international ratings agencies downgrade Tasmania's rating, it will breach another.

The size of the debt will be so large the annual interest repayments are the equivalent of paying for our entire ambulance and emergency departments. More than \$600 million every year wasted paying interest.

Instead, Speaker, Tasmania needs change.

We need a government whose top priority is creating and protecting safe, secure, well-paid jobs.

We need a government that will get developments and big projects moving.

We need a government with a plan to modernise our health system.

We need a government with a plan to fix the budget.

And we need a government that will deliver economic growth in every corner of the state.

Speaker, a better future is possible than the one promised by this budget.

But only if we change the government first.

Because the Liberals have given up and only Labor can clean up the mess.

This budget proves beyond any doubt Tasmania needs a change, because it proves Jeremy Rockliff's Liberal Party cannot be trusted with the finances.

That means they cannot be trusted to lead our State.

In 2014, Tasmania had no net debt - as the Premier would say - not one red cent.

In fact, there was \$208 million in net cash and investments in the bank on 30 June 2014.

And to be fair, the start of the Hodgman Government was pretty disciplined.

We all accepted Peter Gutwein's Government was heavily focused on the COVID response - and the Parliament gave him everything he needed to keep Tasmanians safe.

When Jeremy Rockliff became Premier, there was still barely a billion dollars of net debt.

Three years later, we're on a pathway towards \$11 billion in net debt.

This Premier has posted the three worst fiscal deficits in Tasmanian history, three years in a row.

His budget plans to make it four from four, and then five from five.

And then six from six.

If this Premier survives until 2028, his six budgets as Premier will have produced the six worst fiscal deficits in the state's history. Our state will be broke.

The Premier simply can't manage money.

Anytime there is a political problem, he gets Tasmania's credit card. A mine on King Island got in trouble, he bought a share then bailed them out again.

His candidate for Nelson was in trouble - he tried to buy off the bowls club.

When he let down our tourism and hospitality sectors so badly with our Spirits, he offered \$10 million worth of vouchers so that Tasmanians would pay for other Tasmanians to go out for lunch or dinner. All on the State's credit card.

These amounts of money might seem relatively small on their own. But when you are doing it time and time again, it all adds up.

He's taken Tasmania's finances from the strongest in the nation, to the weakest, and caused our credit outlook to be downgraded by the ratings agencies.

The Premier, his party, and the independents who enable him, are entirely responsible for this mess.

Rather than taking tough decisions, they've taken from future generations.

They've put their political future ahead of Tasmania's future.

They've given up trying to manage the budget, and given away their right to govern Tasmania.

It will be left to Labor to clean up the mess.

Speaker, Tasmania needs change.

We need change because the Liberals' financial mismanagement is hurting Tasmanians, and will continue to hurt us for years to come. Most budgets are quickly forgotten - this budget will go down in history as our worst.

With the amount the government will be spending on interest, we could more than double the size, staffing and resourcing of both our ambulance service and emergency departments.

Imagine what that would do for health outcomes.

We could completely abolish payroll tax for business.

Imagine what that would do for business competitiveness and jobs.

We could build thousands of homes each year for Tasmanians in need, or we could increase the state's infrastructure budget by 50 per cent.

Imagine how many new jobs that would create, how many young people that would give opportunities to, and how significantly that would improve communities right across the state.

Or we could give every household more than \$2,200 a year off their power and water bills, for the next four years.

Imagine how much that would help with the cost of living.

But thanks to the Premier's disastrous and selfish budget management, that money will be wasted on interest.

Not on paying down debt, just on interest.

And you know what the worst thing is?

They're planning to borrow that money too.

It's like a household that's overextended on their mortgage taking out a credit card for the repayments.

It is completely unsustainable and I am furious the Premier and Treasurer have the nerve to come in here and try to pretend there is nothing wrong.

Honourable Speaker,

If not for a one off payment in 2017, the biggest cash surplus this century was \$400 million, under Labor in 2004.

That means it will take 27 consecutive years of the biggest surplus we have achieved this century to pay off Jeremy Rockliff's debt.

If this Premier is allowed to keep on going, the debt will be so large it will almost certainly be too large for any future government to pay off.

Tasmania needs change, before his mess gets any worse.

Because Speaker,

It is even worse than it seems.

This budget is dishonest to its core.

Just as they've done year after year, they've hidden the true state of the budget.

No one in their right mind would believe any government, of any colour, will be spending less in 2029 than it will in this year's budget.

That would be a real-terms cut of more than 10 per cent to schools, hospitals, police - to everything.

Even if the Premier had a credible set of budget papers, and a credible plan to do something about it, it wouldn't be enough.

Because this government has let our state down time and time again.

Tasmania needs change because nothing is getting done under this Minority Liberal Government.

The Spirits are now more than \$500 million over budget and six years behind schedule. Projects they promised in 2018 like the new Tamar Bridge don't even have a design. Housing approvals are at record lows. There are no cranes in the sky. It's hurting our economy and costing jobs.

Most of all, Tasmania needs change because this Minority Liberal Government has the wrong plan for the future.

Where will Tasmania be in 10 years if we continue like this? There will be even more debt and they'll still be pretending there's a pathway to surplus. Our best assets will be long gone - privatised forever. We'll have worse health services, fewer jobs, stagnant population and flatlining economic growth. Our state cannot afford it.

The Spirit of Tasmania fiasco has shown this minority Liberal government for what it is: hopeless.

They bailed out a Finnish shipbuilder in secret during an election campaign with \$80 million of Tasmanian taxpayer money.

They forgot to build a berth for those same ships.

The cost of that berth blew out by \$400 million.

They misled the tourism industry, and didn't tell them for months the ships' arrival would be delayed until late 2026.

They tried to lease the ships out as a floating refugee camp, before it turned out the Scottish Government actually was never interested. When that failed, they spent millions upon millions hiding them in Scotland.

They're still there, still costing us millions, and now we're told they are defective.

The TCCI said it would be very difficult to ever trust them again. They're not the only ones.

Speaker,

Just look at the list of broken promises.

There's the big ones:

- Healthiest state in the nation by 2025
- Education results at the national average by 2022
- Keep Tasmania net debt free
- No deals for minority government

There's the projects:

- Cradle mountain cableway
- Cable car on kunanyi
- Light rail by 2025
- New Tamar Bridge
- Full redevelopment of the LGH
- Underground bus mall
- Duplicating the Charles Street Bridge
- Sun Cable
- Northern Prison
- New north west race tracks

And there's the policies:

- A single statewide planning scheme
- Short stay levy
- Fire tax
- Keeping UTAS in Sandy Bay
- Not a red cent more
- 40,000 hectares of new forestry
- Treaty and a ban on conversion practices
- Forced amalgamation of councils
- A ban on ramping

There's too many to mention.

And despite all these broken promises—and not to mention the massive delays with others—they've still managed to completely blow their budget forecasts.

In the 2022 Budget, the Liberals said this year would produce an operating surplus of \$126 million.

The following year, this Premier's first budget, that was revised down to a \$32 million surplus.

The next year it was revised down to a \$148 million deficit.

The deficit then doubled by the mid-year budget update, nearly doubled again in their election costings, and went further into the red—\$792 million—in the 2024-25 Budget.

Over the course of this year, it's blown out by another \$500 million, to a deficit of nearly \$1.3 billion.

It is reckless, incompetent, irresponsible, and not remotely what Tasmanians were promised.

It's exactly why Tasmania needs change.

Speaker,

If last year's budget was an admission the Liberals have lost control of the finances, this year's budget lays bare the terrible consequences of their budget disaster.

Since Jeremy Rockliff broke his promise and struck deals for minority government, 7,000 full time jobs have been lost.

The reason the unemployment rate looks better is that people have given up looking for work altogether, with Tasmania having by far the worst employment participation rate in the nation.

Our participation rate today is where the national rate was in 1983.

Young people are leaving the state in record numbers, with net interstate migration losses recorded for nine consecutive quarters. On average, every four days another plane load of young Tasmanians choose to leave.

Industries that have been the foundation of Tasmania's economy for generations, at both ends of the state, are in serious trouble.

Tasmania has crashed from the top of the CommSec rankings, to near the bottom.

Deloitte has projected a recession. This budget predicts negative state final demand in 2026-27.

Roy Morgan has found Tasmanian business confidence is clearly the lowest in the country.

And is it any wonder, when this minority government has completely trashed Tasmania's finances?

Should we be surprised, when they have shown time and time again they can't get anything done, and don't deliver their promises?

And who isn't worried, when the only plan in this budget is to sack two and half thousand public servants, slash \$180 million from community services, and privatise the assets we've built together over the past 100 years.

Cutting jobs cuts confidence. Selling assets leads to higher prices. Big deficits mean business taxes will be higher for longer.

This budget is bad for the economy and bad for business.

Tasmania needs change.

Budget critique - privatisation

Speaker,

The Liberals have given up trying to manage the budget responsibly. Labor will take action on day one to get things back under control.

The Liberals have no plan to grow the economy. Labor has already announced more than a dozen policies to create safe, secure, well-paid jobs.

The Liberals want to privatise the assets Tasmanians have built together over the past 100 years - assets that keep costs down for households and business, and provide funding for schools and hospitals.

Labor will fight them every step of the way.

It is clear from the budget the Liberals are hellbent on selling the majority of our energy assets.

They are planning to privatise TasNetworks, Aurora, and Momentum Energy - a subsidiary of Hydro.

That means privatising every power pole, every metre of electricity wire, every substation and the jobs of every maintenance crew. Imagine what that will do to the cost of energy.

It means flogging off our energy retailer, and adding massive private profits to every power bill.

And it means selling Momentum, which makes money from mainlanders to offset our bills.

Power prices will soar under the Premier's plan, just as they have in other states who've gone down this path.

The Premier is also planning to sell the MAIB and Metro. That's bad news whether you rely on a bus or a car.

It will mean higher bus fares, fewer routes, higher car regos and more expensive insurance.

Tasmanians will pay more for every single kilometre they travel on Tasmanian roads. It's one big giant toll.

Under the Premier's plan, our ports will be sold as well.

We are an island state, and ports are essential for nearly every aspect of our economy.

It will mean every boat, every shipping container, and every item on them, will cost more - in both directions. That will mean higher prices for Tasmanian households, and greater costs for our exporters.

It will be an economic disaster for Tasmania.

And they won't stop there -

Honourable Speaker, Sustainable Timbers Tasmania and TasIrrigation are for sale as well.

These are companies that support thousands of jobs and businesses across regional Tasmania.

Our forestry sector will be decimated, and STT's fire management and emergency response capacity will be lost. It's basically the Greens' policy.

And the fights over water we see in other states will be imported to our agriculture sector.

Regional Tasmanians will pay for the Premier's plan with their jobs.

And Speaker,

That's before we get to what this means for funding for schools and hospitals.

This budget contains \$620 million of revenue from the businesses the Premier is privatising.

That's money that will no longer be available to pay for teachers, nurses and construction projects, because the Premier will have sent it offshore instead.

It's social and economic vandalism of the highest order.

It's a massive black hole in their budget.

It's why Tasmania needs change.

Labor has changed

Speaker,

It is clear this Premier, and his Minority Liberal Government, is not capable of delivering the change Tasmania needs.

They have given up and it will once again fall to Labor to clean up the mess left by the Liberals.

And that's why it's so important we've changed the Labor Party.

I have been clear that under my leadership, Tasmanian Labor stands for safe, secure, well-paid jobs - a fundamental non-negotiable.

It's why, on my first day as leader, I went to the west coast to show my support for the workers in the aquaculture industry.

It's why the first piece of legislation we moved in this place was for long-overdue industrial manslaughter protections, and why I have announced legislation to stop the privatisation of Aurora.

It's why I'm backing a stadium, with a Local Jobs Plan, for the thousands of jobs it will create across the State.

It's why I've stood up for our university and their plans to deliver twenty-first century education to Tasmanians.

It's why I've backed Tasmanian business with plans to cut red tape, boost the night time economy, run more day sailings on the Spirits, get renewable energy projects moving and stop the power price rises the Liberals are imposing on our smelters and major manufacturers.

And I've why I've said enough is enough when it comes to wasteful government spending, and announced a 10-point plan to start fixing the budget. It's why we are amending the Charter of Budget Responsibility Act to bring about more frequent assessments of the state's long-term financial position, and it's why we are determined to cap budget deficits.

Honourable Speaker,

I am proud of the work my Shadow Treasurer, Josh Willie, and I have done to present a policy to the Tasmanian people that does not allow this government to continue to run budgets like it is.

No Tasmanian Government has ever run budgets like this. It is completely reckless and bereft of any discipline whatsoever.

I am determined to do things differently.

Under my leadership, the Labor Party has listened, and has changed.

We are back as the party of jobs and economic development.

We are back in the business of building.

We are proudly pro-development, pro-business, and pro-workers.

We proudly support native forestry, salmon farming and mining. We want to change planning laws so we can develop our renewable energy assets - instead of sitting around for years wading through red tape.

We will always stand up for public ownership.

This budget shows Tasmanian Labor is the only party of responsible financial management in Tasmanian politics today.

Speaker,

Labor has changed, and Tasmanians are looking to us once again to turn this state around.

But I don't want people to support us just because this minority Liberal government has let Tasmania down.

Protest votes won't change Tasmania.

I want Tasmanians to support us because we've outlined a vision for this state's future, and a plan to deliver it.

I want Tasmanians to join me in imagining a better future for this state.

To lift our collective ambition.

And to trust me and Labor to deliver the change Tasmania needs.

Alternative vision for Tasmania

Alternative vision for Tasmania - Launceston Convention Centre

Speaker

Conferences, conventions, and trade shows contribute \$200 million to Tasmania's economy each year - but less than 20 percent of business events take place in the north of the State.

Business event delegates spend more, stay longer, and visit during otherwise quieter times of the year for holiday makers.

They are high value visitors. We need more of them visiting all regions of the State.

Just as Jim Bacon's enduring legacy to Launceston is AFL Football and the development of York Park, I am determined to make Launceston the

premier regional destination in Australia for hosting conferences and conventions.

A demand study has found a new purpose-built events venue expected to generate \$28.5 million in new economic activity in Northern Tasmania every year.

What's most exciting is that private developers have already expressed interest in the opportunity with exciting proposals, including Errol Stewart's kanamaluka vision.

I am listening, and when I meet with the Launceston Chamber and its members, this is something they are deeply committed to and excited about. But it is clear the opportunity is going nowhere under the minority Liberal Government.

In government, Labor will roll up our sleeves and collaborate with the Launceston Council, the local tourism sector, and developers to identify the best and most affordable proposal for the city within six months of taking office.

We will also commit \$20 million from savings we find in the Budget, to fast track the project and leverage private investment.

Alternative vision for Tasmania - Invest Tasmania

Speaker

Last year, I announced Labor's plan to appoint a Coordinator General with real powers, and real teeth – to unshackle the massive investment backlog in our State.

We need a Coordinator-General who isn't just a salesman spruiking the State - but can get things done - with real powers to coordinate environmental assessments, apply zoning changes, and direct government businesses to provide support for investors, not blockages.

Today, I announce Labor in Government will also fix the broken and confusing bureaucracy investors confront when trying to do business in Tasmania.

I struggle to find a single renewable energy developer with anything good to say about RecFIT, while the Office of the Coordinator General is seen as completely disconnected from the businesses and industries it was intended to serve,

I have looked closely at what different States do and am inspired by the work of South Australian Premier, Peter Malinauskas, who has transformed his state's reputation as a can-do place for investment and a state where things happen.

We need to change the way investors perceive Tasmania as a place to do business.

That's why I announce a Labor Government will bring together the resources of the Office of the Coordinator General and the Renewable Energy responsibilities of RecFit, into a new single entity, Invest Tasmania, to be based in Launceston.

Modelled on a proven approach in South Australia, Invest Tasmania will have a clear mandate and all the powers it requires to unlock the \$25 billion of capital that's ready to be invested in our state, but is stuck in planning rules and red tape.

It will end the confusion for business owners and investors dealing with multiple agencies and departments when they just want to get moving on big projects for our economy.

By merging the resources and responsibilities of these existing agencies, Invest Tasmania will end duplication, save money and provide a much simpler single interface for the private sector in dealing with the Tasmanian Government.

Importantly, Invest Tasmania will report directly to me, as Premier.

I want to lead a government that's responsible with the budget and aggressive with the economy. I'll back development and investment every day of the week, and with policies like these I'll get Tasmania building again.

Alternative vision for Tasmania - modernising public services

Speaker,

Perhaps the single most short-sighted, counterproductive thing in this year's budget—and let's be honest, there's a lot to choose from—is there is less funding in the budget and across the forward estimates for health modernisation technology than there was last year.

This, of course, comes after the Liberals were last year caught raiding \$150 million from a fund designed to help support digital upgrades - which they spent covering budget blowouts instead.

A Labor government will immediately restore the \$7.2 million the Liberals have cut.

We'll put it in an account, alongside the remaining funds the Liberals haven't cut yet, and we'll lock the account with legislation to ensure every cent gets spent on modernising our hospitals.

Tasmania's health outcomes will be the worst in the nation for as long as we have the most technologically outdated hospitals.

We can't expect to deliver health services more efficiently—which we need to, given the damage the Liberals have done to the budget—when our health professionals spend so much time doing paperwork instead of caring for patients.

And we can't expect to solve the serious—and expensive—problem of health workforce retention, when nurses have to go in on their days off to check a paper-based roster that's stuck up on the wall.

Speaker,

The Premier says his government is spending twice as much on health as when they were elected.

The problem is health services aren't twice as good. In fact, on almost every measure, they're worse.

One part of the solution is to modernise our hospitals, and free up the time of our dedicated health workers.

That's exactly what Labor will do.

Alternative vision for Tasmania - childcare in the regions

Speaker,

I have already spoken about how Tasmania has the lowest workforce participation rate in the country. The fact is our regional areas are even further behind.

One reason for that is our regions have some of the poorest access to childcare in the nation.

I am pleased the Federal Labor Government has stepped up in a big way, with a policy for guaranteed funding, cheaper access, resourcing for new centres, and critically, higher wages for educators.

In my job I get to meet a lot of different people working in a lot of different roles - but I think our early educators have to be right up there with the people I admire most.

For our family, access to childcare has been essential. We don't have access to grandparents and for our kids, childcare was a big part of growing up and learning. It prepared them for school and made them more resilient. They were more ready to learn.

But like so many others, we have been unable to get access when we needed it. Meeting with people all over the state is an issue that constantly comes up.

Which is why I'm also pleased the state government is belatedly, begrudgingly adopting some of Labor's policy from the last election, to open up government land and buildings for new centres and extra outside school hours care.

But too many Tasmanians still have to refuse a new job or extra hours because there's no care available where they live.

Not just a waitlist for places - no service at all.

I was in Strahan recently, where there's a strong tourism industry, a secure future for aquaculture, and nowhere for parents to send their kids for childcare.

It's a clear market failure.

That's why I'm announcing today that a Labor government will allocate \$500,000 over the next two years, and work with the West Coast Council, to open and operate a new, small service on the west coast.

We will do so until such time as a private provider is willing to step up and take over.

And if the model is successful, we will look to roll it out in other regional areas where there's simply no support available for parents.

Labor will back our regions by ensuring Tasmanians have the same ability to balance work and family, no matter where they live.

Alternative vision for Tasmania - budget repair

Honourable Speaker,

The policies I have announced today do not require significant amounts of new spending.

I believe a government with new ideas, that's willing to think creatively about our problems, can be aggressive with the economy while being responsible with the budget.

Not every problem is best fixed—or fixed at all—by opening the public chequebook.

But thanks to the mess Premier Rockliff has made of the state's finances, being responsible with the budget requires more than simply not making things worse.

Being responsible means outlining an alternative to the Liberals' budget crisis.

On day one of a Labor government, we will deliver our 10 Point Plan for budget repair to the Treasury for implementation.

But I know that's not enough, because since we announced that plan the Premier's budget crisis has become even more serious.

So that's why, in addition, we will instruct government agencies to immediately abolish programs and positions that are not delivering good value for Tasmanians.

The Associate Secretary roles created by the Premier will be axed, as will 25 senior executive positions in the public service. This will save approximately \$8 million per year.

Any business grants programs without a competitive process behind them will be cancelled. No more funding freezers for grocers or airpods for hat makers.

We will cut the number of government media advisers in half, saving \$5 million over the budget and forward estimates.

We will defer indefinitely the Fifth Lane on the Southern Outlet Project, and work with the Federal Government to reallocate their commitment to higher priority road projects, saving \$160 million.

The tourism voucher scheme is a waste of \$10 million.

I know the Premier let the hospitality industry down, but COVID-era stimulus programs aren't the answer in a budget crisis.

Why does Larry Kestleman's private development at Wilkinson's Point, which involved public land being granted without any discernible due process, receive its own \$24 million capital allocation when other private developments receive no such support?

We will put a hard cap on departmental spending on consultants, government advertising and travel, saving up to \$60 million per year based on blowouts from last financial year.

Recently, a consultant was given more than \$200,000 to write Tasmania's trade strategy. There's a whole section of State Growth dedicated to trade - it's called Trade Tasmania. What on earth are they doing if not writing the state's trade strategy?

To rein in the ballooning workers compensation bill and protect workers, we'll modernise the complaints system and reform return to work by centralising targeted support to avoid duplication across agencies.

We will abolish the Waste and Resource Recovery Board, saving \$1 million per year, and change the law to end the requirement that landfill levy proceeds fund grants for composting and other low-priority projects. This will save up to \$100 million over the budget and forward estimates.

We will make the delivery of infrastructure projects on time and on budget a key KPI for every departmental secretary.

And Labor will establish an internal jobs market in the public service, to allow jobs to be filled permanently by existing state servants without advertising or full selection processes.

This will save money in recruitment, but more significantly, will allow roles to be realigned to government priorities without adding to the overall size of the state service or involuntarily displacing existing workers.

Tasmania's public servants are highly-skilled, professional and deeply committed to Tasmania. That does not mean the duties allocated to them by the government are always the best use of their expertise. Labor's internal jobs market will save money and create a more effective state service.

Speaker,

These measures will save the budget more than half a billion dollars.

But while significant, they are only a start when it comes to addressing the budget problems created by the Premier.

I cannot undo three years of damage in one speech.

Billion dollar deficits and \$11 billion of debt require a long term plan for budget responsibility.

That's why we have amended the Charter of Budget Responsibility Act to ensure Treasury undertakes a long-term assessment of the state's finances in every term of government.

It's why we've introduced amendments to the Financial Management Act and even the Constitution Act, to expose budget blowouts, cap budget deficits and return responsible budget management as a core responsibility of government.

Responsible financial management will be non-negotiable in a government I lead.

And between now and the next election, we will be announcing a significant number of additional policies to deliver the change Tasmania needs.

Policies to create safe, secure, well-paid jobs.

To get Tasmania building again.

To modernise schools, hospitals and public services.

And to boost our regional economies.

We will be responsible with the budget, and aggressive with the economy.

And day by day, month by month, year by year, we will grow Tasmania out of the mess the Premier and his minority Liberal government have made.

Conclusion - the choice

Speaker,

Tasmania has a choice.

Between a minority Liberal government that's given up, or a Labor Party with a plan for change.

Between a Premier who has delivered the three worst fiscal deficits in Tasmania's history, and whose only plan to fix it is a fire sale of the assets we've built together over the past 100 years. Or a changed Labor Party with a real plan for budget repair.

A minority Liberal government that's cost 7,000 Tasmanians their full-time job, or a Labor Party that's focused on its fundamental purpose of creating safe, secure, well-paid jobs.

A minority government that oversaw the biggest infrastructure stuff up in history, or a Labor Party that's proudly pro-development and has the policies needed to get Tasmania building again.

A minority government that's broken its biggest promises on health and education, and now wants to sack two and a half thousand workers. Or a Labor Party with a plan to modernise our schools, hospitals and essential public services.

A minority government that's out of ideas for regional Tasmania, or a Labor Party that stood up strongly for salmon workers and knows we'll only succeed if no one's left behind.

More of the same, or a plan for change.

That's the choice for Tasmania.

Conclusion - the action

And Speaker,

That's the choice for this Parliament too.

When I became Leader 12 months ago the Premier had just signed confidence and supply agreements with Mr O'Byrne, Ms Johnston and the Jacquie Lambie Network.

The only confidence agreement I was committed to was one with the Tasmanian community.

Since then, we uncovered the biggest infrastructure stuff up in Tasmanian history. The ferries fiasco is costing our economy \$500 million every year in lost revenue and has cost taxpayers \$500 million more than it should have.

The budget is wrecked and 7,000 full time jobs have been lost since the Premier went into minority. Our health and education systems are the worst performing of any state and young Tasmanians are leaving in numbers never seen before.

The TCCI has said it will be hard to ever trust this government again.

It is clear the Premier has given up. There is no real attempt to fix this budget.

Honourable Speaker, Labor does not have confidence in this Premier.

Today I have tabled a notice of motion that says this House has no confidence in the Premier.

- Because he has wrecked the budget
- Because he is planning to sell our power companies, our ports and our public transport
- And because no one can trust him after his handling of the Spirit of Tasmania fiasco

My Message is to the cross bench. The self-described 'true opposition'.

If they really are opposed to this Premier's agenda of debt, deficit and debacle – as they claim – then tell the House you have lost confidence in this Premier.

When enough members indicate their support for my motion, I will move it.

If not, they will show they are happy to go along with his agenda. All the debt, all the cuts, and all the privatisation.

They will show Tasmanians that a vote for anyone except Labor is a vote for the Liberals.

And they can rest assured we will let Tasmanians know exactly who is propping up this failed, incompetent and reckless minority Liberal government.

Honourable Speaker,

Labor has changed.

Labor is the only party that can be trusted to clean up the mess.