



## Government Media Statement

12 June 2008

---

**MICHAEL AIRD**  
Treasurer

---

### **Ideas, Action And Opportunity – Budget Overview**

---

The Treasurer, Michael Aird, today unveiled a landmark budget that provides Tasmanians with opportunities for the future.

Mr Aird said this year, for the first time, the annual Tasmanian Budget tops over \$4 billion.

"We are putting ideas into action, for today and tomorrow," Mr Aird said.

"The 2008-09 Budget includes \$1.5 billion for health and human services, and more than \$1 billion for education.

"On top of that the 2008 Budget also includes \$1.5 billion to renew and build infrastructure in Tasmania.

"It continues the Government's record of providing tax relief.

"It extends concessions to Health Care Card holders which will be worth up to \$470 a year and 46,000 Tasmanians stand to benefit."

Mr Aird said the 2008-09 Budget built on the State's strong financial management the Government has established over the past 10 years.

"This is a budget for Tasmania created by a government that believes in offering opportunities for everyone so they can fulfil their potential.

"Since Labor came to office a world of new opportunities has been provided to 37,400 Tasmanians who now have jobs.

"Tasmania today is a vibrant place of ideas and opportunities. This budget will support Tasmanian families.

"It will continue the hard work that has turned the Tasmanian economy into one of the most competitive and fastest growing in Australia.

"The 2008 Budget reinforces our Triple A credit rating.

"It will drive jobs growth, improve literacy levels, support those most in need with better community services and housing.

"It also will meet the challenges of climate change, urban renewal and demographic change.

"We are a Government that is prepared to listen to new ideas and to challenge the status quo.

"That is why we are taking action today to provide opportunities for current and future generations by continuing to build our infrastructure."

Mr Aird said the major highlights of the 2008-09 State Budget included:

- **\$34.8 million** to improve literacy and numeracy levels of Tasmania children and adults.
- **\$80 million** to implement major reforms in Family Services; Disability Services; Alcohol, Tobacco and other Drug Services; out-of-home-care services; and to implement the Government's Clinical and Primary Health Services Plans.
- **\$99 million** to support public housing.
- **\$11.2 million** to promote social inclusion in our communities.
- **\$14 million** to extend concessions for those most in need.
- **\$2.8 million** for Neighbourhood Houses.
- **\$1 million** contribution to the Tasmanian Education Foundation.
- **\$11.3 million** to establish five new Learning and Information Network Centres (LINC)s to integrate community learning, libraries and technology access with other government services.
- **\$5.7 million** to promote climate change programs.
- **\$12 million** to drive urban renewal and protect our built heritage.
- **\$4 million** for tracks, trails and city bikeways.
- **\$12 million** to save the Tasmanian Devil.

- **\$10 million** for the Environment Protection Authority.
- **\$3.1 million** for environmentally friendly traffic lights.
- **\$1 million** to appoint a Tasmanian Chief Scientist.
- **\$1 million** to appoint a Tasmanian State Architect.
- **\$135.3 million** for Tasmanian schools.
- **\$492.8 million** for hospitals and other vital health facilities.
- **\$80 million** to drought proof Tasmania.
- **\$626.8 million** to improve our roads and transport system.
- **\$18.9 million** for better police stations.
- **\$65 million** in additional tax cuts.
- **\$10 million** to increase workforce participation.
- **\$7.2 million** to improve job skills and create new training positions.
- **\$8 million** for the Tasmanian Brand Project.

---

Contact: Sue Bailey – (03) 6233 2305  
<http://www.tas.gov.au>