

Two-year waiver of water and sewerage head works charges for developments

Building a Tasmania we
can all be proud of



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future

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The Plan to make Tasmania attractive
for investment and to create jobs

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We understand the economy and we understand business. We understand that the best thing government can do is get out of the way of business, and create the best environment for it to prosper.

Two-year waiver of water and sewerage head works charges for developments

Unemployment in Tasmania is at a decade-high 8.2 percent, investment in Tasmania has plummeted by 15.4 percent in the last 12 months alone, and business confidence is at near record lows.

In addition, Tasmanian businesses are being strangled by red and Green tape. The burden of increased operating costs to business under Labor and the Greens, including developer charges, has led to a further loss of investment in the State. The situation is getting out of control, directly impacting not just developers, but also Tasmanians buying land or land and a house, where it can now cost as much as \$9,500 per residential block for water and sewerage connections.

The Liberals have listened and it is clear that these developer charges are acting as a roadblock to development in Tasmania. We want to make Tasmania the most competitive place in Australia to do business.

At the core of the Liberals' Plan for a Brighter Future is our commitment to make Tasmania attractive for investment, and to create jobs. As part of this plan, a majority Liberal Government will act decisively to deal with the issue of headworks charges stymying much-needed development and jobs, by immediately implementing a two year headworks holiday.

This initiative will mean an immediate stimulus to Tasmania's building and construction sector, bringing forward up to \$100 million in investment, and creating up to 500 new jobs. This policy is part of our commitment to cut red and Green tape by 20 percent.

How this policy will work

In order to ensure that the policy can be implemented immediately upon election, without the need for legislation, if elected we will compensate TasWater to a maximum of \$5 million per year, for two years, for lost revenue.

While we believe TasWater could absorb the costs of this headworks holiday with no impact on their customers or owner councils, we have taken the decision to compensate them for lost revenue in order to ensure the timely and smooth implementation of this important initiative. If elected, we will work closely with TasWater and its local government owners, to implement this policy.

This will not impact on water and sewerage bills.

In fact, TasWater will benefit from the increase in investment and economic activity that this policy will create. The waiver will be reviewed prior to the expiration of two years to determine its effectiveness in stimulating new development and economic activity in the State.

Costings

Maximum of \$5 million per year over two years (the cost of this policy will be offset by the nearly \$500 million in savings identified in the budget).

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initiative will bring
forward up to \$100
million of developments
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