

Roadmap to Recovery & Growth

- *\$450,000 to deliver a skilled workforce for the future and revitalise farm sector employment and training;*
- *\$450,000 for Private Forest Industry Development to support and grow this sector; and*
- *\$250,000 to develop a low-interest, profit-contingent loan scheme to give farmers, fruit growers and agri-food businesses the financial support to turn great ideas into long-term profit-making enterprises with a HECS-style scheme.*

3. Education - Creating a job-ready generation

• High Schools to Year 12

Over a ten-year period, a majority Liberal Government will extend our High Schools to Year 12, and will kick-start this program with a \$40 million* investment to create a job-ready generation.

The Liberals don't believe Tasmania's current education outcomes are acceptable.

- Only 58 per cent of Tasmanian students complete year 12, or gain an equivalent trade qualification - the lowest completion rate of any state in Australia;
- Only 34 per cent complete year 12 within the expected two year timeframe of having completed year 10;
- ABS statistics show that only 51 per cent of Tasmanians are considered to be functionally literate.

We are not prepared to stand by and let this status-quo go unchallenged.

We will start by expanding the offering of vocational, Year 11 and Year 12 subjects in rural and regional high schools. As part of this process we will explore how best to utilise technology such as high speed broadband, so geography is no longer a disadvantage. We will then move to gradually expand secondary education to Year 12 in major population centres.

Under our visionary plan, city-based colleges will be retained, however their function may change. They will be retained in order to provide maximum choice and career pathways for students from all high schools. Existing colleges could be utilised as places of Year 11-12 learning, Year 9-12 schools, adult education and/or academic training, depending on the needs of local communities.

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*Both the name of the *Education Investment (and School Retention) Fund* and the amount allocated to it have been adjusted to reflect the Government's removal from last year's budget of \$24 million in savings from forced school closures.

- **Reforming VET – a modern day TAFE**

A majority Hodgman Liberal Government would end the duplication created by splitting TAFE in favour of two separate unknown entities – the Tasmanian Skills Institute and the Tasmanian Polytechnic - which have so confused the business and training community.

The split system has resulted in an inefficient, top heavy structure with significant duplication. We need a modern day TAFE which is more closely aligned to what industry want. We would move to a single entity, a modern day TAFE which would be more responsive to the needs of industry and once and for all end the inefficiencies and confusion.

- **Growing Education Exports**

In conjunction with our vision to lift our education standards to the top of Australia's rankings, we also have a vision to lift the value of our education exports.

With an export value of \$128 million in 2010-11, education is currently Tasmania's ninth largest export industry.

If we grow our education industry to the national average, where it ranks as the second largest export, education will be worth more than \$400 million to the economy each year.

In Government, we would work with the University to assist them in their goals of improving the education standards of Tasmanians, growing the education industry in Tasmania, and to lift the University into the top 10 research universities in Australia.

**As announced last year, we will also fund the Bravehearts program with an investment of \$200,000 per annum which will come from within existing departmental resources.*

4. *Energy* - Making Tasmania the most competitive place to do business

- **A carbon-tax free Tasmania**

The Liberal vision is to make Tasmania the most competitive place in Australia to do business.

Under a majority Liberal Government, Tasmanian households and small businesses who do not benefit from competition will not pay the unfair carbon tax on their electricity bills.