

# PS BUDGET CUTS NEWS

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## STATE OF THE STATE

**LAST** week each political party presented their State of the State speech outlining their vision for Tasmania's future.

**PREMIER Lara Giddings kicked off on Tuesday with a speech heavy on words but light on initiatives.**

Her plan is based around making huge cuts to the public sector equivalent to around 2300 FTE jobs.

She's maintained her position that she won't rule out using forced redundancies despite giving public sector workers a 'rock solid' guarantee not to do so prior to the last election.

The Premier seems solely focused on budget bottom lines rather than real people and is basking in the cheering she gets from the Tasmanian Chamber of Commerce and Industry for making tough decisions.

For some reason the Premier believes cutting thousands of jobs will stimulate growth in the economy and business investment.

An Access Economics report released on Wednesday indicated the Tasmanian Premier's plans to cut public sector jobs will make life even harder for the state's retail sector.

Unfortunately the Premier's State of the State speech amounted to little more than a plan to cut jobs, cuts services and plunge Tasmania into recession.

**IN CONTRAST, Liberal leader Will Hodgman gave some detail about how a Liberal Govt would deal with the current budget situation.**

While committing to sustainable budget management and acknowledging this would result in a smaller public sector over time, Mr Hodgman ruled out the use of forced redundancies and outlined a 5 point plan to achieve the cuts.

*Point 1: The adoption of a whole-of-government framework for managing the public service that breaks down the silos and applies a strategic approach.*

*Point 2: Using strategic management of natural job turnover in the public sector to reduce numbers rather than forced redundancies or the blunt instrument of vacancy control.*

*Point 3: Working proactively with the community and unions to develop a long-term policy for a sustainable public service.*

*Point 4: Encouraging public sector workers to take up private sector opportunities through leave without pay arrangements.*

*Point 5: Engage with public sector workers on their ideas for making savings.*

The Liberals also announced their intention to present legislation making it clear public sector workers can't be made forcibly redundant without the approval of the Parliament.

The Libs will need the support of the Greens or some Labor members to have this legislation passed.

**GREENS leader Nick McKim put forward a proposal entitled 'Professionalising the Public Sector'.**

This plan suggests the budget situation could be addressed by:

- Developing a plan in consultation with stakeholders to prioritise cost-saving measures which will professionalise and modernise the public sector and improve its productivity.
- Streamlining individual departmental IT, HR and pay-roll units
- Investigating a secondment program between the public and private sectors to maintain workers skill development and skill availability.

Mr McKim didn't indicate whether or not the Greens would be supporting the legislation proposed by the Liberals or if they intended to fulfill their pre-election promise of no forced redundancies.

**Unions believe there is an alternative to the Premier's plan to cuts jobs and services and it seems clear the Liberals and the Greens also believe the reduction in state spending can be done without resorting to the blunt instruments of sackings and vacancy control.**

***It's time for the Greens to tell the Premier they will not support her approach and force her to engage in a tripartisan process to move Tasmania forward.***



### MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS START THIS WEEK

**Unions have been busy scheduling hundreds of workplace meetings around Tasmania. It's important every Member attends one of these to hear about our alternate plan to deal with the financial situation.**

**Meeting notices have been sent out and all the venues are listed at [www.abettertasmania.com](http://www.abettertasmania.com)**

