

Media Release

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TCCI Launches State Election Spendometer

Statement by Robert Wallace – TCCI Chief Executive Officer

Tasmania's peak employer body, the Tasmanian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, has launched a State Election Spendometer to track the spending commitments of the major parties through the campaign.

Robert Wallace, TCCI Chief Executive, said that in a pre-Election survey the business community selected Budget Management as its number one priority.

"We want to see an Election campaign characterised by responsible spending that protects the Budget bottom line.

"The Spendometer will draw focus to the net cost of election commitments and their potential to negatively impact the bottom line.

"It is a simple concept that provides information in a non-partisan way to the wider electorate," Mr Wallace said.

Mr Wallace said that the Spendometer had been developed in consultation with the political parties to ensure it provides a fair and accurate representation of expenditure through the campaign.

"It will be updated on a regular basis as new information becomes available and will utilise Treasury costing data where possible.

"We are also providing a breakdown of recurrent and capital expenditure. It is important to understand that recurrent expenditure adds to the day-to-day cost of government operations.

"We are supportive of capital expenditure on economic infrastructure which has the capacity to expand economic activity," Mr Wallace said.

Mr Wallace said that the Greens had also been invited to provide data and it will be included when provided.

The Spendometer can be viewed at www.spendometer.com.au

* The TCCI Spendometer is not intended to infer any assessment of the achievability of policy expenditure or savings. It is purely a collation of cost implications if Election commitments are followed through in accordance with stated party policy.

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The Spendometer can be viewed on the TCCI (30 Burnett Street) big screen throughout the day.

The TCCI is an independent and member funded not-for-profit organisation that represents 2,800 Tasmanian businesses and supporters who collectively employ 75,000 Tasmanians.

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