



MCKELL INSTITUTE
VICTORIA / TASMANIA

Budget Cuts in Practice

McKell Institute Budget Report No. 2

About this report

The McKell Institute is an independent, not-for-profit research organisation dedicated to advancing practical policy solutions to contemporary issues.

This report has been prepared by the McKell Institute Vic/Tas with the support of Unions Tasmania.

The report was prepared on the lands of the Palawa and Wadawurrung people.

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Executive summary

In our previous report on the State Budget, the McKell institute highlighted how the Tasmanian Government has decided to undertake the necessary process of budget repair almost exclusively through cuts to expenditure. By analysing two decades of budget data from around the country, we demonstrated the proposed cuts would represent the deepest and most prolonged expenditure restraint in any jurisdiction this century.

The report also explained the dual risk of such an approach. On the one hand, if the cuts are imposed in line with the 2026/27 State Budget, there will be substantial, negative impacts on public services such as health, education and emergency services, as well as impacts to almost every aspect of Tasmania's economy. On the other hand, by relying exclusively on cutting spending, the Government risks exacerbating the State's financial problems if it cannot restrain spending as planned.

This report explores the proposed cuts in more detail, and assesses the likely impact of some of the measures evident from the State Budget. These include:

- A further increase in the outpatient waitlist of more than 10,000 patients
- Risks Tasmania's education results will fall further behind the rest of Australia
- Reduced library services
- Longer court backlogs
- Reductions in activities that support or protect key pillars of Tasmania's economy, including biosecurity, fisheries management, skills and training, economic development, trade, tourism, creative industries and parks
- The cessation of community service programs that support Tasmanians in need

The report also finds there is a lack of detail available regarding the Government's plans for expenditure cuts, and that this lack of transparency increases the risks identified in McKell's first report. By limiting scrutiny of the Government's approach, it is more likely cuts will be applied to areas that are essential for revenue collection, for ensuring services operate efficiently, or that have an outsized impact on health, education, economic or other important outcomes. The lack of transparency also risks policy confusion and delaying a return to a more sustainable financial position.

The report makes two recommendations. First, it urges the Tasmanian Government to give serious consideration to completely redesigning its budget repair program in time for the 2027/28 State Budget, focusing on "bottom-up" reform rather than "top-down" cuts. Second, it recommends the Tasmanian Parliament establish a committee to monitor and regularly report on the implementation of the proposed budget cuts, as occurred during previous periods of fiscal consolidation. The committee's terms of reference should enable it to establish and scrutinise exactly how each agency plans to meet its allocated budget, and what the impacts on jobs and public services will be. It should also be able to regularly monitor whether agencies are on track to meet their allocated budgets, and if not, to what extent and why.

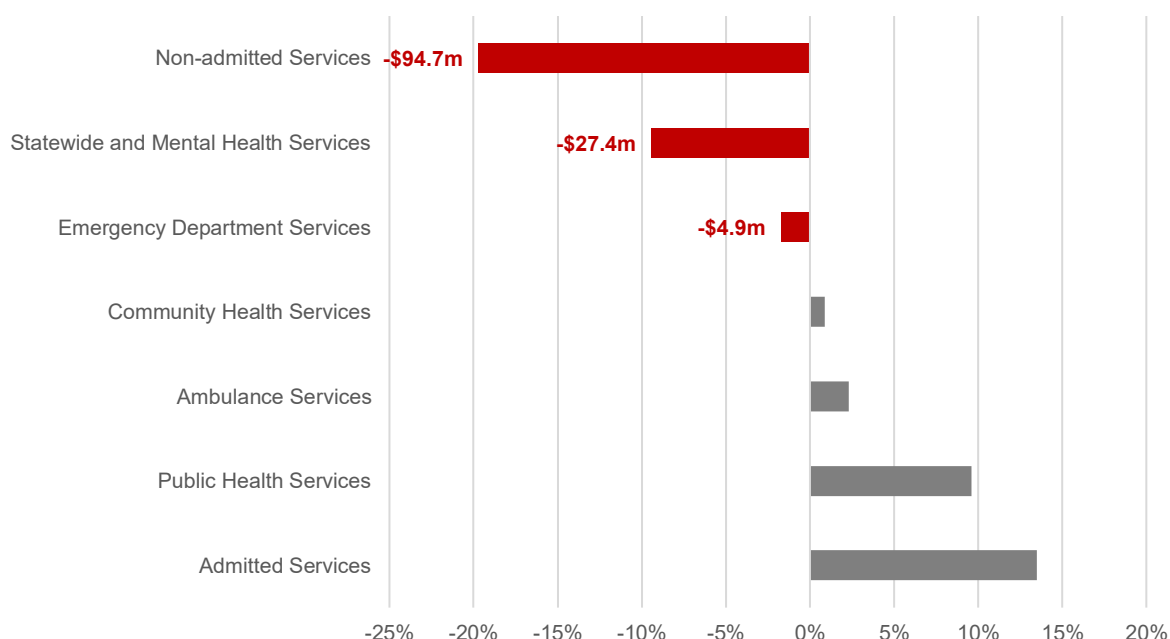
Potential impacts of budget cuts on public services

It is possible to make some preliminary assessments of which areas of government are likely to be most affected by the Tasmanian Government's proposed budget cuts, despite the fact the Government does not current have a detailed or comprehensive plan. Drawing on information contained in the State Budget, departmental documents and several recent announcements, the following section outlines where it appears some of those cuts are slated to fall. Where possible, it also attempts to assess the impact of those cuts on the services available to the Tasmanian community.

Health

The funding allocations provided in the 2026/27 State Budget reveal substantial reductions for key areas of Tasmania's health system. As the chart below demonstrates, funding for specialist outpatient services is down nearly 20 per cent compared to the amount actually spent two years previously in 2024/25. Funding for mental health services is down nearly 10 per cent, while funding for emergency departments is down nearly two per cent.

Chart 1: Health funding by output, 2024/25 actual vs 2026/27 budget



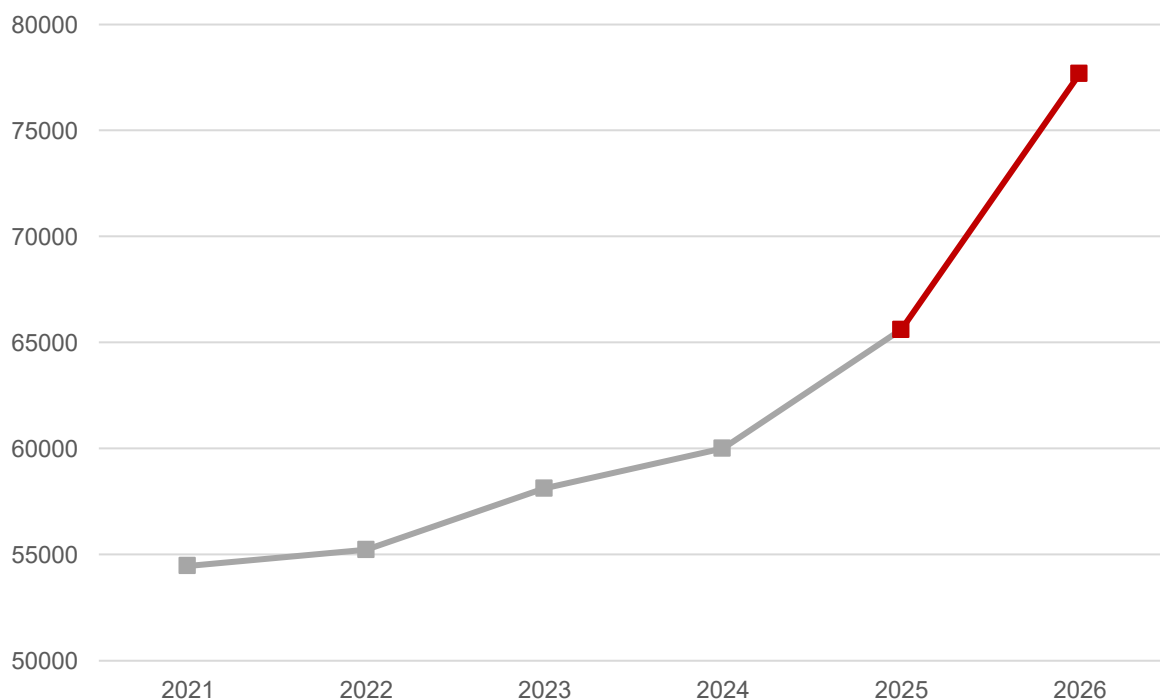
Source: Department of Health, Tasmania, Annual Report 2024/25; Tasmanian Budget 2026/27¹

This does not account for the impact of inflation, which over the two years would be expected to add, at minimum, at least an additional six per cent to total costs.² In real terms, compared to the amount actually spent in 2024/25, the Budget therefore includes cuts of nearly 25 per cent for outpatient services, 15 per cent for mental health services, more than seven per cent for emergency departments, five per cent for

community health services and four per cent for ambulance services. It is not clear how this could be achieved without impacting the services available to the community.

Indeed, outpatient waitlist data shows that such substantial cuts to outpatient funding will have significant, negative effects for Tasmanians needing access to health services. As the grey line in the below chart shows, the outpatient waiting list increased by approximately 11,000 between mid-2021 and mid-2025, from 54,000 to approximately 65,000. Spending on outpatient services in the final year of that period was \$480.5 million. The following year, which is indicated by the red line in the chart below, the waitlist increased by a further 12,000 people, or more than the entire combined increase over the previous four years. Spending on non-admitted services was reduced in this year by more than 20 per cent, to \$383.4 million. Clearly, that level of resourcing is insufficient to meet the demand in the Tasmanian community.

Chart 2: Outpatient waiting list, statewide, 2021-2026



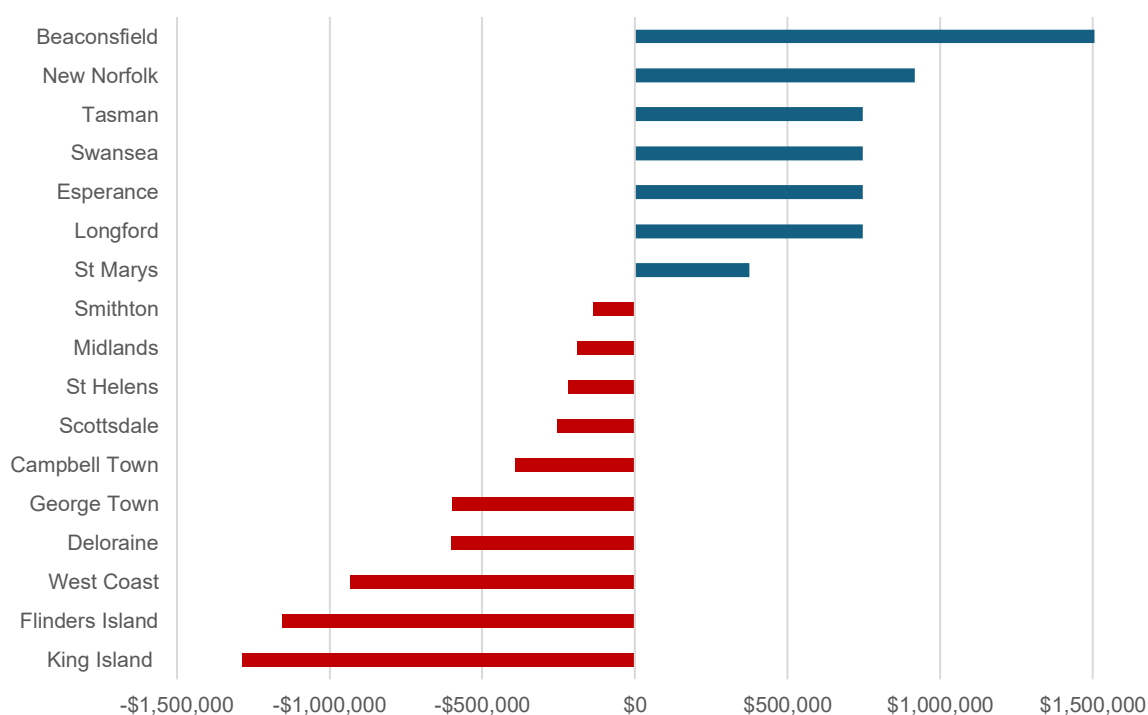
Source: Health System Dashboard; Hansard; Mercury³

That level of funding is proposed to be frozen in the coming year, and therefore cut again in real terms. It is therefore reasonable to assume a similar number of Tasmanians will not receive the care they need this year and instead will be added to waiting lists. If this were to occur, the waiting list for outpatient care could approach 90,000 by mid-2027. Given further that a real-terms spending freeze is proposed across the entire forward estimates period, with increases of just 1.6 per cent, 1.8 per cent and 2.4 per cent, it is entirely plausible that by 2030 there will be as many as 120,000 Tasmanians stuck on the outpatient list waiting for care, or nearly 100,000 more than when this Government was elected in 2014.⁴

While outpatient services are generally less clinically urgent than emergency department or ambulance services, that does not mean they feel less urgent for the patients stuck on a waiting list, or that the personal, social and economic costs of inadequate service provision are necessarily less severe.⁵ These are patients who might need to see a specialist before starting cancer treatment, need specialist assessments before being added to surgery lists, or who have a suspected progressive neurological disorder like Alzheimer's. Delaying care often increases the risk that a patient's condition will worsen, with serious consequences for them and their family, significant economic disruption while they are unable to return to work, and ultimately larger costs for the health system over the course of their treatment.

Other potential impacts appear in the Tasmanian Health Service's Annual Service Plan, which shows reductions in funding allocations in the majority of Tasmania's regional hospitals. While overall funding is essentially unchanged in dollar terms—an increase of \$26,000—funding has been reduced at 10 of the 17 regional hospitals compared to the previous year.⁶ At five facilities—Smithton, Midlands, St Helens, Scottsdale and Campbell Town—funding is down by between \$136,000 and \$391,000. At the other five—George Town, Deloraine, West Coast, Flinders Island and King Island—funding has fallen more significantly, by between \$597,000 and \$1.3 million. If this allocation reflects each hospital's total available resourcing for the year, as opposed to an estimate based on anticipated demand or an amount that could be topped up with existing cash reserves, this would mean fewer regional services will be available in the apparently affected regions.⁷

Chart 3: Change in NEC funding - 2025/26 vs 2026/27



Source: Tasmanian Health Service, Annual Service Plan 2025/26 (Amendment 1) and 2026/27⁸

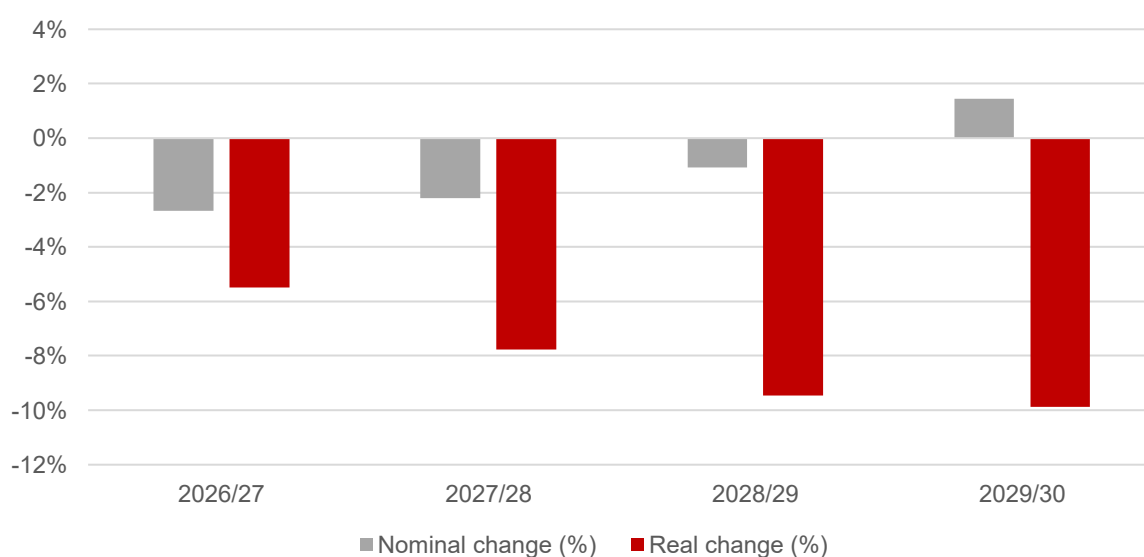
Education

The 2026/27 State Budget also reveals substantial cuts to education. In 2025/26 the Budget estimated total expenditure of \$1.5 billion on 'In School Education', the State Budget output relating to the operation of primary and secondary schools. In the current year, funding is set to fall by \$40 million, to \$1.46 billion, followed by increases of \$8 million, \$16 million and \$37 million in the following three years.⁹ Put another way, the Budget implies that funding for schools and associated support services will not again reach the level provided in 2025/26 until the end of the decade.

As with the discussion of health services above, this does not account for the impact of rising costs. Staff salaries, supplies and most other forms of expenditure increase each year, meaning the real funding cut being proposed is significantly larger. After accounting for inflation of three per cent, the real funding reduction is more than five per cent this year, nearly eight per cent the year after, and nearly 10 per cent in 2028/29 and 2029/30. The combined real-terms reduction across the period is approximately \$529 million.

In a State that consistently records the poorest education outcomes of any jurisdiction outside the Northern Territory, and whose results are seemingly going backwards, such a significant change to the real value of schools funding should require serious explanation from the Government about how this is going to be achieved without making existing problems more acute.¹⁰ Yet the only information currently on the public record is a statement in the Budget Papers outlining that the "variation over the Forward Estimates primarily reflects Operational Efficiencies, partially offset by growth in Australian Government contributions for government schools under the Better and Fairer Schools Agreement".¹¹

Chart 4: Funding allocations to 'In School Education' vs 2025/26 estimate



Source: *Tasmanian Budget 2026/27*¹²

Recent reports have suggested job cuts will be applied to the Inclusive Practice Team, which provides specialist support to students with disability, trauma and other complex learning needs.¹³ While the Tasmanian Government's response has been confused at best—it initially denied the reports, then a few days later stopped denying them—it is certain that cutting jobs in the Inclusive Practice Team will reduce the support available to ensure all Tasmanian children are included meaningfully in public education.

The 2026/27 State Budget also appears to indicate approximately \$3 million is set to be cut from Libraries Tasmania.¹⁴ Against estimated total expenditure of \$51.5 million in 2025/26, allocations for the subsequent four years are \$48.7 million, \$48.6 million, \$48.6 million and \$49.5 million, with the Budget Papers again attributing the reduction to the impact of “Operational Efficiencies”.¹⁵ While this represents a real-terms funding cut to libraries of more than eight per cent in the current year, rising to nearly 15 per cent by 2030, there is almost no information available from the Tasmanian Government to explain how this will be achieved without impacting opening hours, digital access support, children's programs or other services currently available to the community.

Recent announcements also indicate substantial impacts on vocational education. TasTAFE has announced it will seek to reduce spending by \$45 million by 2030, with media reporting the majority of the cuts need to be found in the current financial year.¹⁶ To date, it has been announced that 12 courses will be abolished, including Design, Screen and Media, Music, Fashion, Visual Arts, Laboratory Technology, and Meat Processing, along with more than 50 teaching and other jobs.¹⁷ On top of this, the provision of training in Risdon Prison will be discontinued, and cuts will be applied to the adult migrant English program.¹⁸ Each of these cuts will reduce the ability of Tasmanians to gain new skills, improve their career prospects and make a positive contribution to society.

Justice

Substantial spending cuts are proposed in the Department of Justice, particularly from 2027/28. In that year, the budget for Tasmania Legal Aid will fall nearly \$2 million, or nearly 10 per cent. More than \$3 million will be cut from Supreme and Magisterial Court Services, while the Tasmanian Industrial Commission will have its funding halved across the forward estimates. The Office of the Public Guardian will see its budget steadily reduced from an estimated \$2.3 million in 2025/26 to less than \$1.7 million by 2028/29. WorkSafe Tasmania will have its funding cut by approximately \$650,000 in 2027/28.¹⁹ The Budget Papers clearly link these spending reductions to the program of “Operational Efficiencies”, as well as to the cessation of existing programs.²⁰

These services, while not front of mind for most Tasmanians most of the time, are there for people at some of the most difficult periods of their lives, or exist to protect the

interests of some of the most vulnerable people in Tasmania. Many of the areas facing funding cuts are already under-resourced, and as is the case with Legal Aid, a lack of capacity has expensive flow-on impacts across other areas of government.²¹ While not every problem in the justice system can simply be solved with more money, it is also very unlikely that any of the services highlighted above will be able to deliver the same output with significantly fewer resources.

Economic affairs

Substantial jobs cuts appear set to be applied to Building Tasmania and areas of the Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPAC) that contribute directly to the State's economic development. According to an announcement in September, approximately 10 per cent of the workers employed across the two Departments face their jobs being cut.²² Initial reports have indicated:

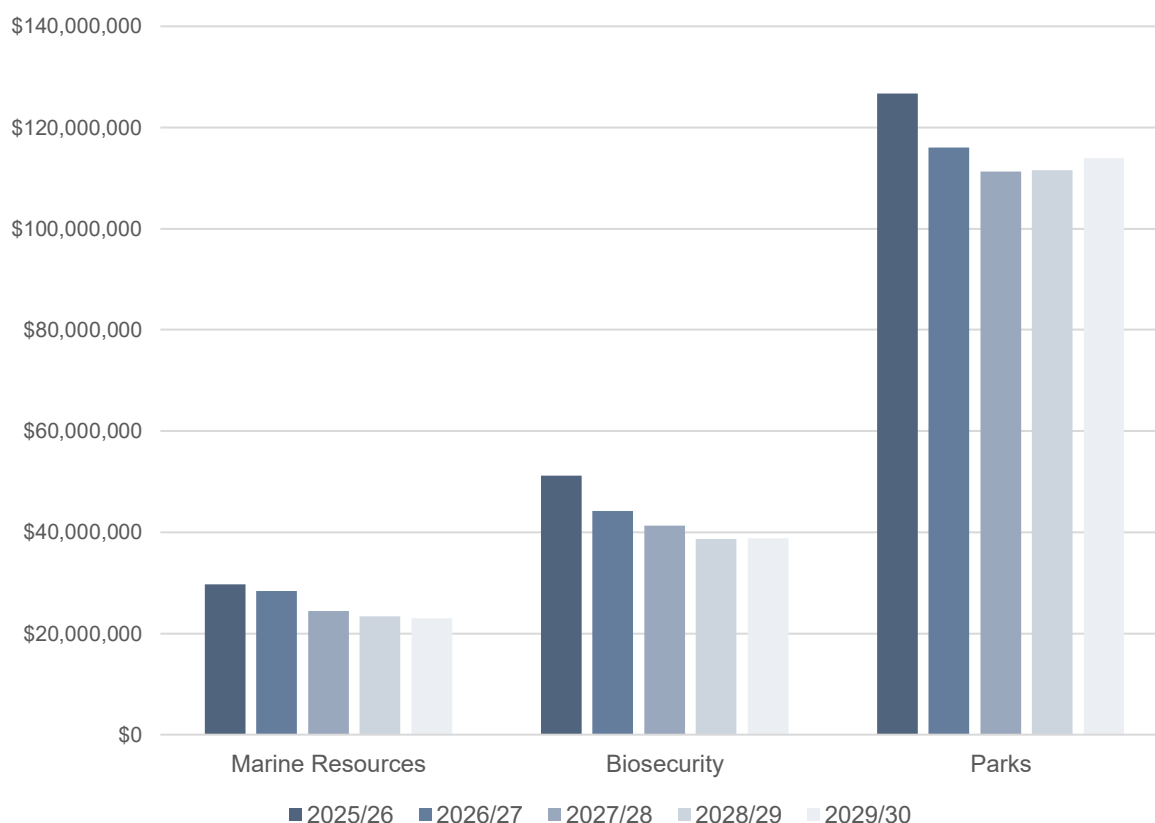
- 36 roles will be abolished across the Economic Development, Trade and Major Investment, Jobs and Skills, and Small Business divisions of DPAC
- 17 jobs will be cut from Building Tasmania's divisions of Creative Industries, Sport and Operations, and Visitor Economy and Events
- 7 jobs will be cut at the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery
- 51 jobs will be lost from the wider Building Tasmania workforce
- 29 jobs will be cut from DPAC's Shared Services area, which provides underpinning support to both Departments

While precise impacts remain to be seen, it appears likely there will be less capacity to support export market growth, respond to economic disruptions like the closure of major employers, and less support for key parts of the tourism sector, such as the arts, events, and the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery. Importantly, this appears to be a clear example of how the Government's budget repair strategy is a top-down approach based on blunt spending and job cuts, rather than a bottom-up review of how things could be done differently across the public service. There has not been any assessment released publicly of the costs and benefits of current industry development programs, nor any consideration of how industry sectors could contribute more to the support they receive through skills programs, trade missions, marketing or events support. Instead, it appears jobs are simply being cut to meet headline savings targets.

Several areas of the Department of Natural Resources and Environment are also facing significant reductions in funding.²³ Marine Resources, which manages the State's fisheries, is set to have its budget steadily reduced from an estimated \$29.7 million in 2025/26 to \$23 million by 2029/30.²⁴ Biosecurity, which is essential for the protection of Tasmania's agricultural sector, is facing a funding cut over three years of approximately 25 per cent, from \$51.2 million in 2025/26 to \$38.6 million in 2028/29. The Budget Papers state the "decrease in 2027-28 reflects Operational Efficiencies

and the completion of prior Budget initiatives including the Weeds Action Fund and Additional Biosecurity Officers initiatives”, which presumably means there will no longer be funding for certain biosecurity officer roles.²⁵ Parks, a key pillar of the State’s tourism industry, faces a funding cut of more than \$10 million this year, compared to the estimated outcome for 2025/26, followed by a further reduction of \$5 million the year after. The Budget says this is due to the cessation of funding for “operational support”, as well as the impact of the “Operational Efficiencies” program.²⁶

Chart 5: Funding allocations in NRE Tasmania, 2025/26 to 2029/30



As with other departments, there is no publicly information available information that indicates exactly how these savings are going to be achieved. However, inadequately resourcing each of these areas carries potentially substantial economic risks. Failures to control the harvesting of certain fish species in a timely way have previously led to the imposition of harsh catch limits or total closures in some areas.²⁷ Biosecurity outbreaks, such as the 2018 fruit fly outbreak, can cost tens of millions of dollars to manage.²⁸ Proper maintenance of facilities in Tasmania’s National Parks and the effective management of visitor numbers are essential for both the experience of tourists to Tasmania—and therefore our State’s brand and reputation—as well as local support for the sector.²⁹ Inadequate resourcing can also reduce the ability to collect revenue from visitors, through parks passes and other sales.

Community services

The 2026/27 State Budget also shows substantial reductions in funding for community services in the Department of Premier and Cabinet. Funding allocations are set to fall by more than half, from \$43.9 million in 2025/26 to \$21.9 million by the end of the forward estimates. The Budget Papers state the “decrease over the Forward Estimates reflects the completion of prior year Budget initiatives”, which presumably means time-limited funding for community service organisations and other initiatives will not be renewed.³⁰ To the extent those programs supported Tasmanians in need or delivered other important benefits to the community, and assuming funding will not be able to be found elsewhere, those services will be lost. That will have the greatest impact on those Tasmanians who will find it most difficult to have their fundamental needs met elsewhere.

The Tasmanian Government has also announced a proposal to reduce the opening hours of Service Tasmania centres in five regional areas. The proposal would cut opening times by 20 per cent in Oatlands, by a third in Campbell Town, and by half in Queenstown, Whitemark on Flinders Island, and Currie on King Island.³¹ Tasmania already ranks below every other state and territory for digital access and ability, people in regional areas fare worse still, and Tasmanians are more likely to struggle to fill out forms.³² Reducing access to Service Tasmania centres—and therefore also reducing the practical assistance people can receive when attending in person—risks making it more difficult for Tasmanians to apply for a wide range of support services or to maintain valid licences and registrations. In turn, there is a risk the Government’s proposal increases regional disadvantage in Tasmania.

Budget repair and the importance of transparency

Given the scale of the Tasmanian Government's proposed fiscal correction, it is surprising how little information is publicly available regarding how that correction is proposed to be achieved. There is almost no detail on the public record regarding the specific measures that have been chosen to implement the \$1.5 billion of expenditure cuts outlined in the State Budget, beyond the headline savings targets allocated to each agency and periodic media reporting. While it might have been the case that specific measures had not been determined in time for the State Budget—imperfect an approach as that may be—the Tasmanian Government has also made no commitment to reporting those measures publicly once they have been decided, and certainly not in any single, comprehensive format.³³

Headline spending cuts, without clear policy decisions behind them, carry a dual risk. On the one hand, the lack of clear policy direction means it is more likely cuts will be applied to areas that are essential for supporting revenue generation, that ensure public-facing services operate efficiently, or that have an outsized impact on health, education, economic or other important outcomes. This is a point also made by Saul Eslake in his *Independent Review of Tasmania's State Finances*, where he notes that “arbitrary reductions in budgetary allocations to departments and agencies, without specifying what services are to be reduced or by how much... are a poor substitute for conscious decisions as to what services should continue to be, or no longer continue to be, provided”. Eslake suggests such an approach actually risks increasing government inefficiency.³⁴

On the other hand, a lack of transparency also risks policy confusion and indicates the Government is unwilling to acknowledge the consequences of its budget choices. Examples of this currently include disputes over what constitutes a “frontline” service, whether jobs are being cut in the Inclusive Practice Team, whether health funding is being cut, and how many jobs are being cut at the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery.³⁵ Given the Government continues to refuse to consider alternative approaches to budget repair, such policy confusion risks delaying Tasmania's return to a more sustainable financial position.

Such a problem has been evident in the failure of the Tasmanian Government since 2019/20 to implement announced headline savings targets—variously labelled “efficiency dividends” or “productivity and efficiency measures”—and the sharp deterioration in the State's financial position over the same period. It is unlikely the Government will have more success implementing the headline targets in the 2026/27 State Budget—now known as “operational efficiencies”—without significantly improving its willingness to be clear about the decisions it is making, and to be held accountable for them.

There are two main ways in which such clarity and accountability could be achieved. First, and most simply, the Tasmanian Government could commit to providing clear and regular information to the community about its budget savings program. This is

something that has been done previously in Tasmania, with information provided on savings measures, and the progress towards savings targets, provided at a whole-of-government and an agency level.³⁶

Second, and perhaps more realistically, the Tasmanian Parliament could establish a committee to examine and monitor the Government's budget repair program. Ideally, its terms of reference would allow it to establish and scrutinise exactly how each agency plans to meet its allocated budget, and what the impacts on jobs and public services will be. It should also be able to regularly monitor whether agencies are on track to meet their allocated budgets, and if not, to what extent and why. It should be granted whatever powers it requires to access this information in a timely way. Precedent for this includes the Legislative Council's extensive *Inquiry into the Cost Reduction Strategies of the Department of Health and Human Services*, which ran throughout 2011 and 2012.³⁷

Conclusion

This report has examined the cuts proposed in the 2026/27 State Budget or revealed through recent announcements, and where possible, attempted to assess their potential impact. The report has found the budget cuts risk:

- A further increase in the outpatient waitlist of more than 10,000 patients
- Tasmania's education results falling further behind the rest of Australia, with particular impacts for students and adult learners most in need
- Longer court backlogs
- Reductions in activities that support or protect key pillars of Tasmania's economy, including biosecurity, fisheries management, skills and training, economic development, trade, tourism, creative industries and parks
- The cessation of community service programs that support Tasmanians in need

The report also found there continues to be a lack of information available regarding the Tasmanian Government's plans for expenditure cuts, and suggested this increases the risks of the Government's approach to budget repair in two main ways. On the one hand, limiting scrutiny of the proposed savings measures means it is more likely cuts will be applied to areas that are essential for generating revenue, for ensuring services operate efficiently, or that have an outsized impact on health, education, economic or other important outcomes. On the other, the lack of clear information also risks policy confusion and indicates the Government is unwilling to acknowledge the consequences of its budget choices. In turn, and given the Government has refused to consider alternative approaches to budget repair, this risks delaying Tasmania's return to a sustainable financial position.

The report makes two recommendations. First, and prior to the next State Budget, the Tasmanian Government should give serious consideration to completely redesigning its approach to budget repair. Rather than imposing headline savings targets on agencies, it should work with those agencies to develop reform proposals that enhance efficiency, redirect effort to areas with the largest social and economic benefits, and consider new ways to fund industry support and other programs. This is more likely to lead to savings estimates that are achievable, defensible, and which have as little impact as possible on the economy and essential public services.

Second, the Tasmanian Parliament should establish a committee to examine and monitor the Government's budget repair program. The committee's terms of reference should allow it to establish and scrutinise exactly how each agency plans to meet its allocated budget, and what the impacts on jobs and public services will be. It should also be able to regularly monitor whether agencies are on track to meet their allocated budgets, and if not, to what extent and why. The report has shown how both the provision of such information by the Tasmanian Government, and the establishment of ongoing scrutiny measures by the Parliament, are not without precedent.

References

- ¹ Department of Health Tasmania, Annual Report 2024–25, p. 170, available [here](#); Tasmanian Government, Tasmanian Budget 2026–27, Budget Paper No. 2, Volume 1, p. 103, available [here](#).
- ² Medical and surgical supplies are indexed at 3.5 per cent. See Tasmanian Government, Tasmanian Budget 2026–27, Budget Paper No. 2, Volume 1, p. 9, available [here](#). Budget assumptions on wage indexation have been exceeded by recently-signed wage agreements.
- ³ Updates to the format in which health data is publicly reported now make comparisons with previous points in time impossible. Compounding this, and despite repeated requests over nearly two months, the Department of Health was unable to actively disclose the outpatient waiting list as at 30 June in 2024, 2025, and 2026. Accordingly, the graph has been developed using statistics cited in Parliament or reported publicly, though not necessarily as at 30 June. This means the figures in the graph should be treated as approximations, albeit relatively accurate ones. Data for June 2021 sourced from Department of Health Tasmania, Health System Dashboard, archived 28 July 2021, available [here](#); data for June 2022 sourced from Department of Health Tasmania, Health System Dashboard, archived 4 August 2022, available [here](#); data for June 2023 sourced from Department of Health Tasmania, Health System Dashboard, archived 2 October 2023, available [here](#); mid-2024 outpatient waiting list figure sourced from Tasmanian Parliament, Hansard, 20 June 2024, p. 19; mid-2025 outpatient waiting list figure sourced from Tasmanian Parliament, Hansard, 7 May 2025, p. 133; mid-2026 outpatient waiting list figure reported in the Mercury, ‘Record 78,000 Tasmanians stuck on outpatient waiting lists after 10 per cent spike’, 2026, available [here](#).
- ⁴ Outpatient waiting-list numbers are not, in themselves, a complete measure of unmet demand for outpatient care. A reduction in the number of patients waiting could, for example, result from a higher volume of lower-cost services being delivered while fewer resources are provided for more complex or resource-intensive care.
- ⁵ In relation to the costs of waiting lists, see Rob Inglis, ‘Tasmania’s elective surgery waiting list cost the state \$120m, according to new analysis’, The Mercury, 5 September 2021, available [here](#).
- ⁶ Department of Health Tasmania, Tasmanian Health Service Annual Service Plan 2026–27, p. 33, 2026, available [here](#); Department of Health Tasmania, Tasmanian Health Service Annual Service Plan 2025–26: Amendment 1, p. 33, 2026, available [here](#).
- ⁷ It is possible these figures simply reflect an allocation of NEC funding, rather than a total annual budget for each facility, and will not translate directly into service reductions in the affected hospitals. If this is the case, however, it exemplifies the issue discussed above, where the Tasmanian Government’s failure to be open about how it intends to meet in practice the headline expenditure cuts contained in the 2026/27 State Budget makes it very difficult for Tasmanians to judge whether the measures that will be required are reasonable.
- ⁸ Department of Health Tasmania, Tasmanian Health Service Annual Service Plan 2026–27, p. 33, 2026, available [here](#); Department of Health Tasmania, Tasmanian Health Service Annual Service Plan 2025–26: Amendment 1, p. 33, 2026, available [here](#).
- ⁹ Tasmanian Government, Tasmanian Budget 2026–27, Budget Paper No. 2, Volume 1, p. 36.
- ¹⁰ See, for example, Bridget Clarke, ‘Education Minister downplays damning student results amid teacher, facility closure’, 10 September 2026, available [here](#).
- ¹¹ Tasmanian Government, Tasmanian Budget 2026–27, Budget Paper No. 2, Volume 1, p. 37, available [here](#). A subsequent discussion during Budget Estimates indicated that the allocations were indicative and had not been finalised. An official stated that ‘the operational efficiencies that came into this year’s Budget have been notionally allocated on a proportional basis across outputs until it’s determined where the savings will actually be realised from’. See Tasmanian Parliament, Legislative Council Estimates Committee B, Hansard, 4 June 2026, available [here](#).
- ¹² Tasmanian Government, Tasmanian Budget 2026–27, Budget Paper No. 2, Volume 1, p. 36, available [here](#).
- ¹³ Oscar Moodley, ‘Anger over disability cut’, Mercury, 23 September 2026, p. 10.
- ¹⁴ Tasmanian Government, Tasmanian Budget 2026–27, Budget Paper No. 2, Volume 1, p. 36, available [here](#).
- ¹⁵ Ibid., p. 37.
- ¹⁶ ABC News, ‘TasTAFE to review courses in attempt to find \$45m in savings over four years’, 26 March 2026, available [here](#).
- ¹⁷ Loretta Lohberger and Jano Gibson, ‘Teaching positions, courses to go under TasTAFE cuts’, ABC News, 6 May 2026, available [here](#).
- ¹⁸ Josh Duggan, ‘Documents reveal TasTAFE plans to cut jobs, hike fees’, ABC News, 4 June 2026, available [here](#).

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- ¹⁹ Tasmanian Government, Tasmanian Budget 2026–27, Budget Paper No. 2, Volume 1, pp. 130–133.
- ²⁰ Or, in the case of the Tasmanian Industrial Commission, the transfer of some responsibilities to Tasmanian Civil and Administrative Tribunal.
- ²¹ See Lloyd Babb, Report and Recommendations from the Third-Party Review of Backlogs in the Tasmanian Court System, 2026, p. 6, available [here](#).
- ²² Rob Inglis, 'About 140 jobs identified for fresh cuts at Department of Premier and Cabinet and Building Tasmania', Mercury, 22 September 2026, available [here](#).
- ²³ For discussion linking funding reductions to the Operational Efficiencies program, see Tasmanian Government, Tasmanian Budget 2026–27, Budget Paper No. 2, Volume 1, from p. 170, available [here](#).
- ²⁴ Ibid., p. 168, available [here](#).
- ²⁵ Ibid., p. 171, available [here](#).
- ²⁶ Ibid., pp. 169–171, available [here](#).
- ²⁷ Monty Jacka, 'Tasmania sand flathead fishing ban inquiry report', ABC News, 1 September 2026, available [here](#).
- ²⁸ Laura Beavis, 'Fruit fly infestation: Tasmania's cost revealed', ABC News, 24 May 2018, available [here](#).
- ²⁹ Luke Martin, 'Tasmanian National Parks need money – and a plan', the Mercury, 24 January 2018, available [here](#).
- ³⁰ Tasmanian Government, Tasmanian Budget 2026–27, Budget Paper No. 2, Volume 1, p. 225, 2026, available [here](#). Examples of the sorts of programs that might not have their funding renewed can be found [here](#) and [here](#).
- ³¹ Meg Whitfield, 'Service Tasmania proposal slashes in-person hours at five regional stores', ABC News, 12 September 2026, available [here](#).
- ³² ARC Centre of Excellence for Automated Decision-Making and Society, 'Measuring Australia's Digital Divide: 2025 Australian Digital Inclusion Index', p. 12, available [here](#).
- ³³ The closest it has come is a commitment to monthly budget updates from November, presumably similar to the existing March and September quarterly reports.
- ³⁴ Saul Eslake, Independent Review of Tasmania's State Finances, 2024, p. 90.
- ³⁵ See, for example, Lucy MacDonald, 'Wellbeing program for Tasmania's justice staff axed in search of budget savings', ABC News, 22 August 2026, available [here](#); Josh Duggan, 'Health Minister denies health cuts, despite asking department to find \$700m in cuts', ABC News, 23 May 2026, available [here](#); Josh Duggan, 'Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery facing job cuts, but minister unclear on number', ABC News, 1 September 2026, available [here](#).
- ³⁶ For whole-of-government reporting, see Department of Treasury and Finance Tasmania, Progress Report: 2011–12 Budget Savings Strategies – September Quarter 2011, 2011, available [here](#); Department of Treasury and Finance Tasmania, Progress Report: 2011–12 Budget Savings Strategies – December Quarter 2011, 2012, available [here](#); Department of Treasury and Finance Tasmania, Progress Report: 2011–12 Budget Savings Strategies – June Quarter 2012, 2012, available [here](#). For agency-level reporting, see Department of Health and Human Services Tasmania, List of Savings Strategies – October 2011, 2011, available [here](#).
- ³⁷ For a copy of the committee's report, see Parliament of Tasmania, Legislative Council, Government Administration Committee 'A', Interim Report: Inquiry into the Cost Reduction Strategies of the Department of Health and Human Services, No. 18, 2012, available [here](#).

All hyperlinks current as of 24 September 2026