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2 July 2025

OPEN LETTER TO CANDIDATES: STRONG, EFFECTIVE ANTI-PRIVATISATION LAWS FOR TASMANIA

Dear Candidate in the 2025 Tasmanian State Election,

Unions Tasmania and our affiliate members collectively represent about 50,000 Tasmanian workers in all industries across the public and private sectors. Our members work in and depend on strong public services—and they know firsthand the impact when those services are privatised. Time and again, privatisation has led to higher costs, longer wait times, and reduced services, especially in regional areas.

We believe that people should come before profit. Public services are a fundamental indicator of our society's values and must be accessible to all Tasmanians, regardless of their ability to pay. These services were built by generations of Tasmanians to serve our people - not to generate profit for private interests.

That's why public ownership is essential. It ensures public services are accountable, accessible, and deliver value for public investment, whether delivered through the state service or government-owned businesses. The significant privatisation plans that have been put forward by the Tasmanian Government in recent months are not supported by the community. Tasmanians cannot afford cuts to services.

We are seeking your commitment to strong, nation-leading legislation to protect public services for the public good. At a minimum, this means requiring two-thirds parliamentary support, rigorous impact assessment, and strong regulatory oversight for any privatisation proposals.

Privatised services and functions in the state service should also be reviewed, with the aim to insource them wherever possible, to improve accountability, value for money, and access to services that Tasmanians rely on. These points are outlined in the pledge on the next page.

We urge you to stand with Tasmanian workers and commit to protecting public services—for the public good—by signing the pledge. We intend to share the names of all candidates who sign with our members and the community.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Marta", written in a cursive style.

Marta Hodul Lenton
Campaigns and Research Officer



I, a candidate in the electorate of

..... in the 2025 Tasmanian State election make the following pledge:

If elected I will do all in my power to see strong, effective, nation leading legislation implemented that does the following:

1. Requires the approval of at least two-thirds of both Houses of the Tasmanian parliament before the sale or lease of any public asset¹ (while retaining the existing referendum hurdle for electricity privatisation).
2. Requires Ministers to report to parliament prior to consideration of the outsourcing or privatisation³ of any public service² and present an assessment of the costs and benefits along with the impact on both the community and workers.
3. Establishes an audit of all outsourced, labour hire, and related work in the Tasmanian State Service to assess the potential and benefits of insourcing them.
4. Establishes a regulatory framework, to oversee any public assets¹ or services² that are privatised³ to ensure accountability and that commitments made at privatisation are kept.

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Signature

...../...../.....

Date

Definitions

1. Public asset:

- Government Business Enterprises, State-Owned Companies, or their assets or subsidiaries as defined in the existing legislation governing them.
- Statutory Authorities such as TasTAFE or the Tasmanian Fire Service.
- Other entities run by or on behalf of the Tasmanian Government, for example the Tolosa St Mental Health facility or the Land Titles Office.
- Significant publicly owned buildings or sites such as the Treasury Building.
- National Parks and Crown reserves

2. Public service:

- Any service delivered by or on behalf of the Tasmanian Government.

3. Privatisation:

- The transfer, in whole or part, of public assets or service provision from the government to an entity outside the government.
- For clarity, this includes not only sale of public assets but also leasing, outsourcing of service delivery, 'user choice', voucher systems, public-private partnerships, use of labour-hire, social impact investment, and mutualisation.