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October 2011

Cut the fluff, not the front line

The past two weeks of Parliament has been dominated by the Labor and the Greens' attempts to excuse their savage, cruel cuts to front line services - particularly in our ailing health system.

The implications of their decision to slash millions from elective surgery budgets, close hospital beds and wards, and sack frontline workers in our hospitals is breath-taking and will be felt for years to come.

We agree that because of Labor and Greens' wrecking the budget by overspending by more than \$1 billion over recent years, that spending does need to be reined in.

But we don't agree with the way Labor and the Greens are doing it.

Instead, we would cut the fluff, not the front-line.

Last week in Parliament, the Greens had the chance to vote with us to put a stop to the reckless \$58 million in cuts to elective surgery. But, as usual, the Greens put their political self-interest ahead of the interests of Tasmanians, and sided with Labor to oppose our motion to instead make equivalent savings from the almost \$200 million in alternative savings identified in the Liberals' Alternative Budget:

- Abolish Metro Park and Ride
- Abolish Tasmanian Together Board and administration
- Reducing funding to the Fox Taskforce
- Abolish the Office of the State Architect
- Abolish the social inclusion unit
- Make additional savings in Premier and Cabinet
- Reduce senior executive service by an additional 25

- Reduce spending on consultants, supplies and consumables

By refusing to adopt our sensible alternatives, Labor and the Greens are the guilty parties, and it's again been demonstrated that the Liberals are the only party in Tasmania that has got the priorities right.

TOTE sale

Also this week, it was revealed that the Government is secretly planning to sell-off the TOTE in order to help plug their budget black hole - despite promising not to on numerous occasions.

Worse, the Premier confirmed that she planned to spend any cash received from this fire sale on recurrent expenditure.

The Liberals - and economists - don't support selling income producing assets in order to spend on recurrent expenditure, particularly at a time when the state needs all the revenue it can get.

Flogging off the family farm in order to temporarily prop up the budget is not a sustainable or sensible solution to Labor and the Greens' budget woes.

Will Hodgman
Leader of the Opposition

In other news...

[Minister clueless on the impact of disastrous forest deal on Tourism](#)

Scott Bacon has again demonstrated he is not across his portfolio.

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[David O'Byrne prioritises Pilates over Patients](#)

While Michelle O'Byrne is cruelly cutting the health budget, meaning sick Tasmanians are forced to wait in pain for hospital beds and elective surgery, public servants in David O'Byrne's department are being treated to a new pilates studio.

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[McKim fails Tasmanians, won't act to stop elective surgery cuts](#)

I am extremely disappointed that after a meeting today, Greens' Leader Nick McKim has indicated that his priorities lie with the Labor Party rather than the people of Tasmania.

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