



November 2011

Dear Steve,

Welcome to the latest edition of my email newsletter.

Since my last e-newsletter the impact of the Green-Labor Government's budget cuts have been felt particularly hard in the areas of health and police.

This e-newsletter aims to bring you up to date with just some of the issues in my shadow ministerial portfolio of Police & Emergency Management.

For more detail on my activities or anything mentioned below, please do not hesitate to contact my office at any time on 6233 5995 or by return email. I would also encourage you to follow my daily activities on Facebook which can be accessed via my website below.

Yours sincerely,

Elise Archer

Liberal Member for Denison

First police, now fire recruitment axed

More than 500 Tasmanians were turned away from this year's Career Fire-fighter Recruitment Course as a result of Green-Labor financial incompetence.

The State Fire Commission annual report recently tabled in Parliament reveals that more than 520 applications were received in January 2011 for trainee and experienced fire-fighters but candidates had to be turned away, after undertaking rigorous physical and aptitude testing, as the commission seeks to find \$14 million

in savings over the next five years.

This is in addition to the cancellation of the annual police recruitment course indefinitely.

Tasmania is now a further step closer to seeing a depleted police service after Minister David O'Byrne confirmed recently that more than 100 officers will face the axe over the next two years.

A confidential internal document we obtained shows that specifically:

- 50 jobs will be cut this year;
- an additional 25 will go next year; and
- a further 33 the following year.

What is worse is the fact that these figures are based on there being no police recruitment course until at least 2015-2017 - meaning the Police Minister could realistically finish his tenure without seeing a single new officer inducted into the police service.

In addition, the document highlights the Minister's plans to slash funding to marine policing, criminal investigation and drug investigation capabilities, as well as axing the highly successful U-Turn youth program.

Police numbers in Tasmania are already well below other states. A further decrease will only result in higher rates of crime, longer response times and a greater pressure on community safety.

Clearly, more Tasmanians (and particularly our young people who must now move interstate to fulfil their dream of becoming a police officer or fire-fighter) are being let down by the failures of this incompetent government.

In comparison, the Tasmanian Liberals have made our priorities clear - in Government we will put frontline jobs and services first. Our alternative budget

identified \$200 million in non-frontline savings.

A good start would be to rein in Labor and the Greens' lavish expenditure on consultants, which last year blew out by a massive \$16 million.

Giving women a voice in business

If you are a businesswoman you may not yet know about the the recently formed Australian Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry (AWCCI). Its aim is to give women in business a voice.

As the Shadow Minister for Community Development which includes responsibility for women's issues, I admire and support women in business (as equally as men, of course!).

With the support of alliances, the AWCCI represents the interests of more than 280,000 members around the country. These are women who, until now, have never had a dedicated Chamber advocating their interests.

You may be aware that the majority of industry and professional groups and business associations have few, if any, women in decision-making roles. I am a strong advocate for positions based on merit so I am sure this will change because we have some very strong and capable women in business in Tasmania.

For more information, visit: www.awcci.org.au

A great local volunteer

Donna Cowen was the recent winner of the Pride of Australia Medal in the 'community spirit' category. The community of Goodwood has Donna to thank for many positive changes in the area. Donna gives up a lot of her time volunteering in the local second-hand shop and the Goodwood Community Centre (to name only a few), and she thoroughly deserves the affectionate title of the 'Queen of Goodwood'.

Donna is also a volunteer for the Duke of Edinburgh Awards of which I am a keen supporter as it keeps our young people physically active and also encourages community service, often helping others less fortunate.

As I have great admiration for Donna, I would strongly encourage you to support her in the national competition of the Pride of Australia Awards in the same category by clicking and voting for her and other Tasmanians at:

<http://peopleschoice.prideofaustralia.com.au/Votingprocessing.php>

Latest News

[Govt must cut the fluff, not workers](#)

[First police, now fire recruitment permanently put on hold](#)

[Station closure a sad day for rural communities](#)

[Safety of Tasmanian children must come first](#)

[Russian Roulette being played with children's lives - David O'Byrne must ensure safety comes first](#)

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Authorised and sent by Elise Archer MP, Parliament House, Hobart TAS 7000.