

Response from the Bartlett Labor Government

Tell us why any of the 23,000 + people employed in hospitality in Tasmania should vote for your party at the election on the 20th of March.

Labor is proud of Tasmania's hospitality sector.

The 23,000 plus people who work in this industry play a key role in promoting the reputation and image of our island state. They have a central role in Tasmania's emerging new lifestyle and ongoing economic, cultural and social transformation.

The Bartlett Labor Government has a demonstrated track record of supporting the hospitality industry in this state.

I was pleased to be able to announce the creation of a new hospitality ministry for Tasmania last November.

Tasmania is the first Australian State or Territory to create a Minister for Hospitality. This shows that Labor knows the significance the hospitality industry has for this State, and the important role it can play in Tasmania's future.

Labor's strong track record on the economy has contributed to growth in jobs for Tasmanians and particularly in hospitality.

Last year, the Global Financial Crisis was decimating national economies and driving up unemployment throughout the developed world. Here in Tasmania, all expectations were that our own State revenue sources would dive.

Labor does not shirk hard issues. We took prudent steps to tighten our belts, and we made some difficult choices necessary to protect Tasmania against the approaching financial storm.

As a result of Labor's leadership, it is now a matter of record that Tasmania has emerged from this challenge with one of the lowest unemployment rates in the nation and one of the strongest, fastest growing economies.

We have kept our faith with the amazing resilience and strength of the

Tasmanian people. Together, we have delivered a strong economy and jobs.

There are still economic challenges that we face, and no doubt there will be more to come. There are still jobs to be created and families to be supported. Every unemployed Tasmanian is a person who deserves and needs an opportunity, and we will keep working to provide them with that opportunity.

What Tasmanians know - and what we showed during the Global Financial Crisis - is that Labor will fight for them.

We get stuck in and stand shoulder to shoulder with every Tasmanian to try and protect their job and create new jobs for them and their kids.

In fact, Tasmania has continued to attract record visitors and spending, when nationally, domestic tourism has been stagnant for many years and in decline in recent years.

The opening up of Tasmania to visitors, new residents and investors has stimulated unprecedented economic activity. This has shown up in the growth in business confidence, private investment, consumer confidence, building approvals and consumer spending.

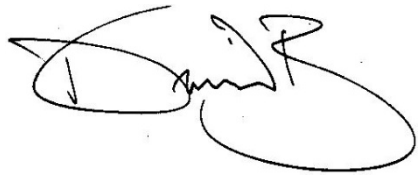
All this translates to prosperity and job security for Tasmanians, including those employed in the hospitality sector. More visitors mean tourism businesses and increased visitor spending, and it is clear that a Labor Government has created more job opportunities for Tasmanians, and particularly more opportunities in hospitality.

Now is the time for us to be planning the way forward by identifying future demands and future opportunities.

A re-elected Bartlett Labor Government will continue to work with the Tasmanian Hospitality Association to grow and support the sector, to deliver new jobs, protect existing ones and build a future in which hospitality is central.

Together we will develop the strategies that will best build our future capacity to take advantage of these future opportunities.

I look forward to working with the Tasmanian Hospitality Association and other key stakeholders to deliver future growth and sustainability for our hospitality industry and the many Tasmanians who work in this sector.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Bartlett', with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

David Bartlett MP
Premier