

Going Once, Going Twice - Parliament House Up for Auction?

Unions Push for Commitment as Government Stalls on Pledge

Tasmanian unions will today stage a symbolic auction of Parliament House - placing a satirical \$13 billion reserve on the people's building - to highlight the ongoing privatisation risk, as the Tasmanian Liberal Government continues to avoid committing to strong legal protections for public assets and services.

The government recently abandoned its privatisation push after strong opposition from unions and the community. However, it has yet to sign a widely supported pledge for enforceable safeguards to protect public ownership into the future.

"Privatising public services is not just a policy decision - it's a risk to lives. We need a government committed to keeping essential services in public hands," said HACSU Secretary Robbie Moore.

"Whether it's a sale or a long-term lease, the result is the same - Tasmanians lose control," said CEPU Secretary Chris Clark. "You don't hand over a profitable public asset for next to nothing and call it good policy."

'If the Premier has genuinely changed his position on selling off assets, then he should put pen to paper and sign the pledge' said Marta Hodul Lenton, Unions Tasmania.

The pledge - signed by candidates from across the political spectrum, including Labor, the Greens, the Nationals, and independents, but not the Liberals - calls for legislation that:

- Requires two-thirds parliamentary approval before selling or leasing public assets
- Mandates rigorous impact assessment for any privatisation
- Establishes strong regulatory oversight of privatised services
- Reviews existing privatised services, with a view to insourcing where appropriate

"Tasmanians deserve strong, effective laws that prevent unchecked sell-offs and outsourcing without proper oversight" said Marta Hodul Lenton.

Union representatives will be available for interview following the auction.

When: Today, Thursday 10 July

Where: Parliamentary Gardens

Time: 12:30pm

For further information: Marta Hodul Lenton 0400 709 543