



- **Employment fell to 234,300**
- **Unemployment rate remained steady at 5.3%**
- **Participation rate fell to 61.1%**

**Note:** All Labour Force estimates are from the Australian Bureau of Statistics' *Labour Force Survey* and are *Trend estimates* unless otherwise stated.

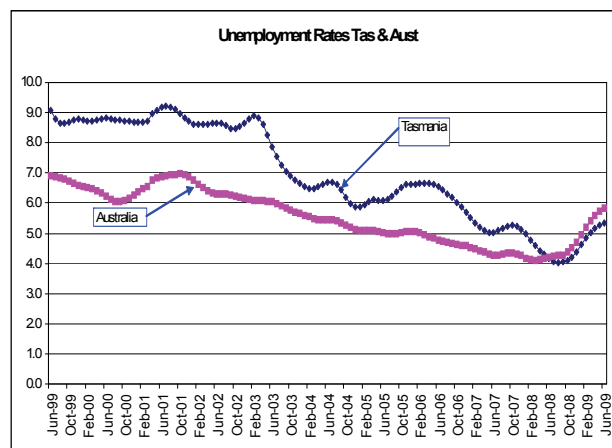
### Employment

The total number of employed people in Tasmania continued to fall in June, and is now 1.5 per cent below what it was in June last year. Full-time employment has fallen for nine consecutive months now, and is currently 4.8 per cent below last June's figure. Part-time employment has actually increased over the year and is 4.2 per cent higher than it was last June, offsetting some of the losses in full-time employment. Total male employment has fallen by 4.4 per cent since last June. This fall consists of a 6.8 per cent fall in full-time employment, but an 8.1 per cent rise in part-time employment. Total female employment also defied the overall trend by increasing by 2.0 per cent over the last year. Female full-time employment fell slightly by 0.5 per cent, while female part-time employment more than compensated for this by rising 2.4 per cent.

### Unemployment

Total unemployment in Tasmania in June was 28.2 per cent, or 2,900 higher than in the same month last year. Of this increase, 2,700 were males, while female unemployment increased only marginally over the year. The unemployment rate for all Tasmanians has increased over the

year from 4.2 per cent to 5.3 per cent. The female unemployment rate has increased from 5.2 per cent to 5.3 per cent, while the male unemployment rate increased from 4.4 per cent to 7.1 per cent over the year. The current national unemployment rate is 5.8 per cent, up from 5.7 per cent last June. In other States and Territories, the unemployment rate was 6.6 per cent in NSW, 6.0 per cent in Vic, 5.4 per cent in Qld, 5.5 per cent in SA, 5.2 per cent in WA, 3.9 per cent in the NT, and 3.6 per cent in the ACT.



### Labour Force & Participation Rates

The number of people in the Tasmanian labour force fell by 0.3 per cent over the last 12 months, with the male labour force declining by 2.3 per cent while the female labour force increased by 2.1 per cent.

The participation rate in Tasmania fell slightly this month to 61.1 per cent, which compares to 62.0 per cent last June, and a current national participation rate of 65.4 per cent.

## Labour Force Estimates - Tasmania (Trend data)

	Jun-2008	May-2009	Jun-2009
	000's	000's	000's
Employment			
Male	131.2	126.1	125.4
Female	106.8	109.0	108.9
Full-time	164.8	157.8	156.9
Part-time	73.2	77.3	77.4
Persons	238.0	235.1	234.3
Unemployment			
Male	4.4	7.0	7.1
Female	5.9	6.1	6.1
Persons	10.3	13.0	13.2
Labour Force			
Male	135.6	133.1	132.5
Female	112.7	115.1	115.0
Persons	248.3	248.2	247.5
Unemployment Rate %			
Male	3.3	5.2	5.3
Female	5.2	5.3	5.3
Persons	4.2	5.3	5.3
Full-time Teenage*	19.2	23.4	20.7
Participation Rate %			
Male	69.4	67.4	67.0
Female	54.9	55.5	55.4
Persons	62.0	61.3	61.1
*unadjusted data			

### Job Vacancies

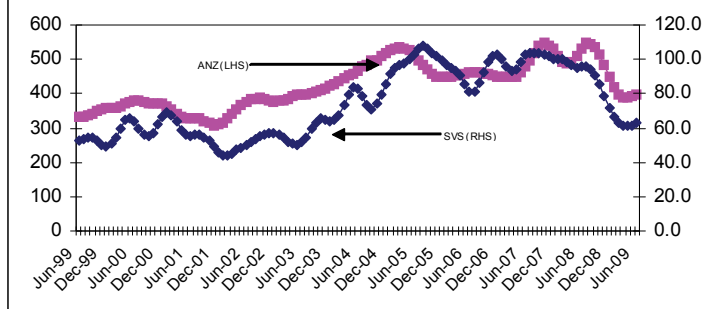
#### The ANZ Bank Job Advertisement series

(trend) rose in Tasmania for the month of June by 1.3% but fell over the year by 25.6%. Nationally, the series fell by 2.0% over the month, and by 53.8% over the year.

#### DEEWR's Skilled Vacancy Survey Index

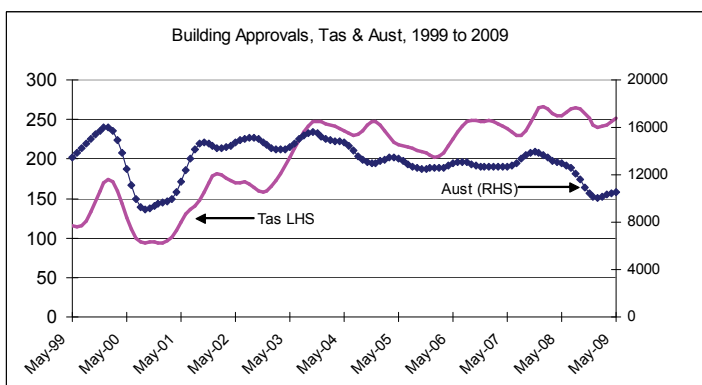
(trend) for Tasmania increased by 3.2% in June but fell by 34.3% over the year. Nationally, the series declined by 3.7% over the month and by 61.5% over the year.

ANZ Job Vacancies & DEEWR Skilled Vacancy Series (SVS), Tasmania



### Other Indicators

**Building approvals** in Tasmania increased by 2.0% during May, and by 1.2% over the year. Nationally building approvals increased during the month of May by 1.3% but had fallen by 18.3% over the year to May 2009.



**Retail quarterly turnover** (chain volume measure) increased by 0.9% in Tasmania in the March 2009 quarter, and by 5.1% over the year. This compares to a national quarterly increase of 0.7% for the March 2009 quarter and an annual increase of 1.4%.

### Newstart Recipients & Youth Allowees

Benefit recipients (Newstart & Youth Allowances)  
Tasmania

	<12 months	>12 months	Total	% > 12 months
May-2008	3,717	6,289	10,006	62.9%
May-2009	5,566	5,723	11,289	50.7%
Number difference	1,849	-566	1,283	
% difference	49.7%	-9.0%	12.8%	

## THE TASMANIAN STATE BUDGET 2009-10

### Introduction

The following report is a brief overview of selected aspects of the State Budget handed down on the 11th June this year. It concentrates on the aspects of the Budget that are most relevant to education, employment and child care issues as they are the main portfolio areas of the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) in Tasmania. There are of course many other aspects to the Budget, such as health, that are only touched on in this summary, and are only mentioned if there is a potential job creation aspect, or if they have a potential impact on some other area of the DEEWR portfolio.

### Overview

- In 2009-10 a net operating deficit of \$117 and a fiscal balance deficit of \$569.5m are budgeted;
- \$2 billion allocated over 4 years for infrastructure projects;
- Infrastructure investment of \$745.7 million is funded during 2009-10, including the re-development and refurbishment of hospitals, schools, and roads throughout the State.
- A range of Budget Management Strategies will be introduced to achieve savings of \$760m over four years.
- Implementation of an Interim Fiscal Strategy (IFS) to return the Budget to surplus by 2014-15.

### Economic Outlook

Tasmanian Economic Aggregates and Forecasts:

The following table shows forecasts for most of the labour market indicators until 2013.

	2008-09 Estimate	2009-10 Forecast	2010-11 Forecast	2011-12 Forecast	2012-13 Forecast
Gross State Product <sup>1</sup>	1¾	-¾	¾	2¼	3
Employment (year-average, % change)	2¾	-2	-¾	¾	1½
Level of Employment (year-average, '000s)	238	233	231	233	237
Labour Force Participation Rate (year-average, %)	62	61½	61¼	61¼	61¼
Unemployment Rate (year-average, %)	4¾	7	8¼	8¼	7½
Consumer Price Index (Hobart, year-average, % change)	2¾	2	1¾	1¾	2½
Population (year-average, % change)	0.9	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.7

### Major Initiatives

Many of the initiatives detailed in the Budget were previously announced in Premier Bartlett's "State of the State" address in October 2008. Given that 65.4% of expected revenues in 2009-10 are from Federal Government grants, much of the infrastructure spending is funded indirectly by the Commonwealth.

This report contains material of a speculative nature and therefore should be used with caution. The Commonwealth, its officers, employees or agents disclaim any responsibility for any loss howsoever caused whether due to negligence or otherwise arising from the use of this report.

### **Business and skills**

- Workforce Participation Program – \$10m for this program was allocated in last year's Budget. The allocation for 2009-10 is \$1.9m, a reduction of 55 per cent on last year's allocation.
- Introduction of a Payroll Tax rebate to employers, for all new jobs created between June 11 2009, and June 30 2010. The value of this tax relief to business is estimated at **\$5m**;

### **Infrastructure**

**\$745.7m** of infrastructure investment is planned with the distribution of funds as follows:

- Roads and rail \$275.4m (36.9%)
- Education \$240.8m (32.3%)
- Housing \$130.4m (17.5%)
- Health \$79.2m (10.6%)
- Tourism, recreation and culture \$13.8m (1.9%), and
- Other \$6m (0.8%)

Major infrastructure projects include

- **\$151.3m** in 2009-10 to be spent on the modernisation of Tasmanian schools as part of the Federal Government's Building the Education Revolution Plan (\$275.8m in total);
- **\$27.4m** in 2009-10 (\$76.1m in total) on Child and Family Health Centres;
- **\$11m** in 2009-10 (\$100m over five years) on upgrading the Royal Hobart Hospital's buildings and infrastructure;
- **\$130.4m** on housing including \$94.9m from the Federal Government's "Nation Building – Economic Stimulus Plan" and \$10m to increase the supply of public housing;
- **\$275.4m** for major road and rail projects including construction of the Brighton Transport Hub, the Brighton bypass, and the Tarkine Drive;
- **\$6.9m** for urban renewal and heritage to protect Tasmania's heritage buildings;
- **\$140m** for irrigation infrastructure;
- Tasmania's share of the \$43b National Broadband Network, due to commence in the State 2009-10. Details have yet to be finalised and the project is still in the planning stages.
- **\$5.1m** on sporting developments at Aurora Stadium, installation of lights at the Bellerive Oval, and upgrading the Domain Tennis Centre.

### **Child care**

- A **\$76.1m** program to build 30 Child and Family Centres (CFCs) over the next four years will commence in 2009-10, with capital funding of \$27.4m. An initial eight centres will be established at Beaconsfield, East Devonport, Queenstown, George Town, Ravenswood, Clarendon Vale, Chigwell, and Risdon Cove, with the latter being an Indigenous centre.
- Early Years Recognition of Child Care Qualification - **\$1.0 million** over four-years. This is a strategy commenced in 2008-09 to target recognition of existing child care skills as formal qualifications within the Tasmanian child care sector. \$250,000 has been allocated in 2009-10

## **Education, Skills/vocational education and training**

### *Post-secondary and vocational education and training*

- A continuation of the Community Knowledge Network strategy, with **\$2.25m** allocated in 2009-10 which aims to establish Learning and Information Network Centres (LINC)s at five sites in the major urban centres of Tasmania. Another important part of the strategy is to bring together elements of the State's public libraries, online access centres, adult education, and archives and heritage services. Funding for the first four LINC)s was announced in the previous two State Budgets.
- From January 1 2009, the Tasmanian education system underwent major changes under the banner of the Tasmania Tomorrow initiative. Essentially the previous system has been replaced by the Tasmanian Polytechnic, which includes the former TAFE system as well as elements of former secondary colleges. In addition a Tasmanian Academy has been established which is the pathway for students wishing to progress to university level studies. Finally the Tasmanian Skills Institute was also established by these reforms with the primary aim of providing workforce development skills to Tasmanian employers and their staff, on a fee for service basis. This also includes major elements of the former TAFE system, particularly in relation to apprentices and trainees.
- The Budget papers state that it is not possible to provide details of funding to each individual statutory authority, nor are comparisons with the past possible.
- Expenditure on the Tasmanian Polytechnic is to decrease by **\$0.5m** due to the impact of the State's Budget Management Strategy.

### *Skills Tasmania*

- A contribution by the State Government of **\$1.8m** to the Federal Government's Productivity Places Program
- Continuation of the Tasmanian Trainee and Apprentice Incentive Scheme, providing a payroll tax rebate to employers for apprentices and trainees;
- Industry Network Solution - Up to **\$800,000** in 2009-10 to partner with industry in developing skills solutions that will provide a greater ability to respond to opportunities from an economic upturn.

### *Schools/compulsory education*

- Expenditure of **\$9.5m** in 2009-10 on the construction of the new Kingston High School. Total allocation of \$33m was made in last year's Budget.

### *Literacy and Numeracy Strategies*

- **\$10.0 million** per annum has been allocated to enable targeted support to significantly increase the number of children finishing primary school with functional literacy and numeracy skills under the *Raising the Bar and Closing the Gap* initiatives;
- **\$3.0 million** per annum will continue the *Learning Services Literacy Strategy* initiative;
- **\$220 000** – the *Early Years Literacy* program will continue to enhance learning opportunities for young people through the provision of books for parents to read to their children; and
- **\$100 000** - *Reading Together* - initiative for working with families to explore ways of developing the literacy skills of children.

### *Reducing Class Sizes from Years 2 to 7*

- **\$6.1 million** provided to continue the program to reduce class sizes to 25 students in all government primary schools, whilst also reducing the pupil teacher ratio in year 7 to below the national average.

### *Tasmania Tomorrow*

- **\$7.8 million** initial investment in infrastructure to enable the establishment of the Tasmanian Academy, Tasmanian Polytechnic, and Training Tasmania within the Tasmania Tomorrow framework was allocated in last year's Budget. It is expected that \$4.3m will be spent in 2009-10;

### *Launching into Learning*

- **\$4.3 million** - this initiative will continue in 2009-10 to support young children before they formally commence school.

### **Health and Human Services**

A total of **\$79.3m** will be allocated to the health and human services sector in 2009-10, which includes

- **\$100m** over five years to improve and upgrade facilities at the Royal Hobart Hospital, of which \$11m will be spent in 2009-10.
- **\$4.5m** allocation from the Federal Government and **\$3.5m** from the Infrastructure Tasmania Fund for a GP Superclinic and Integrated Care Centre (ICC) The entire allocation is expected to be spent in 2009-10;
- An ICC is also planned for Launceston, with **\$5.6m** to be spent in 2009-10.
- **\$33.1m** allocated to upgrades and improvements at the Launceston General Hospital to be spent in 2009-10.
- **\$2m** on upgrading existing, and purchasing new ambulances in 2009-10.
- **\$3.5m** on the purchase and installation of a PET-CT scanner at the Royal Hobart Hospital.
- **\$1.5m** to continue the upgrade of the Patient Administration System for Tasmanian hospitals.
- **\$1.9m** to be spent in 2009-10 on the Longford/Westbury Health Centre upgrade.

### **Other Initiatives**

- **\$8m** of \$30m allocated last Budget on a major redevelopment of the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery;
- *Budget Management Strategy* introduced to achieve savings of \$760m over four years, which includes
  - ⇒ Voluntary redundancies for State public servants to achieve job reductions of 800 in total, including 25 Senior Executive Service positions;
  - ⇒ Application of efficiency dividends to achieve savings of \$64.1m in 2009-10;
  - ⇒ A public sector wage restraint strategy. One of the features of this is an abandoning of so called nexus arrangements in future wage agreements. These nexus arrangements have tied Tasmanian salary increases to an average of mainland States' salaries as a way of attracting and retaining skills in the State, particularly in the health and education sectors;
  - ⇒ A whole of government non-salary savings strategy to reduce running costs of Government Departments.

This report contains material of a speculative nature and therefore should be used with caution. The Commonwealth, its officers, employees or agents disclaim any responsibility for any loss howsoever caused whether due to negligence or otherwise arising from the use of this report.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS IN JUNE 2009**

- June 2<sup>nd</sup> Sprent Primary School in Tasmania's central coast region near Devonport has been approved for up to \$800,000 under the 21st Century grant, \$75,000 under the National School Pride Grant and \$30,000 from the National Solar Schools program. Latrobe Primary School near Devonport is also set for a revamp thanks to the injection of more than \$2 million in federal funding through the Pride in our School and Building Education Revolution. *(The Advocate)*
- June 2<sup>nd</sup> The Tasmanian Premier and Education Minister, David Bartlett has turned the first sod on the \$33 million Kingston High School development in the state's south. Mr Bartlett said the school would help create a brighter future for students in the Kingborough area and provide crucial jobs in the construction industry over the next two years. Vos Constructions will employ 200 workers on site at the peak of the construction. The school will accommodate 700 students from years seven to 10. *(The Mercury)*
- June 5<sup>th</sup> Tasmanian Polytechnic and Skills Institute campuses have won nearly \$5 million of the Federal Government's \$200 million TAFE spending package to upgrade. The biggest single investment is \$560,000 to the Devonport Polytechnic in the state's north-west for new learning areas and refurbished facilities. Around \$435,000 will go to the Launceston City Polytechnic in the state's north and in the south the Bender Drive campus will get \$350,000 for work including an upgrade of its hydraulics and pneumatic facility and backlog maintenance. Also in the south \$60,000 will go to Drysdale South for internal refurbishment. More than \$1.6 million will be used for equipment, design and "contingency fees" to be split up among sites across the state. Overall \$4,661,906 will be spread across 15 Tasmanian campuses. *(The Mercury)*
- June 6<sup>th</sup> Seven Tasmanian building firms have been appointed to construct round-one projects for government schools under the Federal Government's stimulus Building the Education Revolution package. Twenty-seven tenders were received by the State Government for the eight packages, with Vos Construction winning the tender for the North project and R&S Rosier the North-East project. Other successful tenderers include Jackman Builders, Bennett Constructions, Tascon Construction, Stubbs Construction and Fairbrother. Premier David Bartlett said yesterday that work would begin on the projects early next month. Pre-qualified builders were also given advance notice of tender package details for round two of the primary schools for the 21st century program. "An announcement of successful school projects is expected from the Australian Government shortly, but we have given builders two weeks' notice before the official tender date due to the significant number of projects to be tendered," Mr Bartlett said. "The fast-tracked tender process makes it easier for the Tasmanian building and construction industry to apply," he said. *(The Examiner)*
- June 9<sup>th</sup> Northern Tasmania's proposed regional tennis centre will go ahead. Bass Labour MHR Jodie Campbell said her pre-election commitment of \$550,000 for the centre had been honoured by the Federal Government. Another \$400,000 has been provided by the Launceston City Council, along with about \$100,000 in grants from Tennis Tasmania. The new centre to be built behind the existing Launceston Indoor Sports Arena site at Racecourse Crescent will include nine hard courts and two synthetic clay courts. *(The Examiner)*
- June 9<sup>th</sup> Tasmanian airline service Tasair has introduced scheduled flights between Hobart in the south and Devonport in the north-west. The service operates on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays using a two-pilot, 18 seat BAe Jetstream airliner. The flight takes around 5 minutes. If there is sufficient demand, plans are in place to extend the operation to a full weekday service. *(Tasmanian Business Reporter - June 2009)*

- June 10<sup>th</sup> The Hobart City Council has rejected a proposed 10-level office building and restaurant next to historic Macquarie House in central Hobart in the state's south. The plan, which would have required some demolition, raised heritage concerns and was considered large for the site. (*The Mercury*)
- June 10<sup>th</sup> The number of conventions and conferences held in Tasmania is up by more than 100 per cent. Australian Bureau of Statistics figures show that nationally, business sector visitor numbers are down 17.1 per cent and convention and conference visitors are down 28.4 per cent for the first four months of 2009. However Tasmanian Convention Bureau CEO Denise Bradley said because Tasmania did not rely on the international market as its major customer base it was performing well. She said business travel to Tasmania had already reached a level double its annual target. With the Bureau receiving \$600,000 in state funding, Ms Bradley said it had generated \$26 million in returns. (*The Mercury*)
- June 10<sup>th</sup> A tender has just been signed, and dredging work will start next week, to improve access to Tasmania's east coast port of St Helens. Marine and Safety Tasmania has finalised the \$1 million contract to clear sand behind the St Helen's barway and add it to the original, but eroded, coastal dunes and revegetate them. Tasmania Rock Lobster Fishermen's Association Chief executive Rodney Tregloggen says commercial fishermen are currently having to wait for high tides to enter the bay, and the port is missing out on the scallop season that's just starting, because loaded boats struggle to get into the port. ([www.abc.net.au/rural/news](http://www.abc.net.au/rural/news))
- June 10<sup>th</sup> All rail services in Tasmania are expected to cease in less than three weeks. Sole operator Pacific National sent letters to its major freight users in Tasmania yesterday informing them its rail system would shut down from June 30. To date parent company Asciano has been unable to find a buyer for its Tasmanian operations which were put up for sale late last year. The sudden departure may spell the end of rail services in Tasmania or could force the State Government to step in and run the ailing system itself. (*The Mercury*)
- June 12<sup>th</sup> Local councils are being offered interest-free loans to kick-start local infrastructure investment. Tasmanian Economic Development Minister Michael Aird said the new Local Government Infrastructure Assistance Program would help local government increase its investment in key infrastructure initiatives and create immediate local employment opportunities in rural and regional areas. The program will provide up to \$20 million in loan borrowings. The first round of applications will be open until August 31, followed by round two closing on November 30. (*The Mercury*)
- June 13<sup>th</sup> Deputy Prime Minister Julia Gillard visited Hobart yesterday to personally announce the \$129 million in cash for infrastructure at 88 Tasmanian schools. Successful schools will receive up to \$3 million each. The money will be spent on 34 new halls and 19 new libraries, new classrooms and performing arts centres, and is intended to boost the building industry. Yesterday's announcement comes on top of \$100 million already pledged through the Federal Government's Building the Education Revolution package. Schools receiving the most federal money are:
- Our Lady of Mercy School Deloraine: \$3 million for relocation & refurbishment of library and upgrade of administration.
  - St Patrick's School Latrobe: \$3 million for refurbishment of hall
  - Mowbray Heights Primary School Mowbray: \$2.85 million for new hall
  - Dominic College Primary Campus Glenorchy: \$2.5 million for new multipurpose facility.
  - Glenorchy Primary School Glenorchy: \$2.5 million for new hall
  - Cambridge Primary School Cambridge: \$2.5 million for new classrooms

- Lenah Valley Primary School Lenah Valley: \$2.5 million for new library
- Penguin Primary School Penguin: \$2.5 million for redevelopment of library and hall
- Sorell School Sorell: \$2.5 million for redevelopment of hall and classrooms
- Spreyton Primary School Spreyton: \$2.5 million for new hall and library
- Trevallyn Primary School Trevallyn: \$2.5 million for upgrade to classrooms
- Scotch Oakburn Primary Campus Launceston: \$ 2.25 million for new library with hall
- The Hutchins School Sandy Bay: \$2 million for new library
- East Launceston Primary School East Launceston: \$2 million for new library
- Beaconsfield Primary School Beaconsfield: \$2 million for new hall
- Bridgewater High School Bridgewater: \$2 million for new hall
- Deloraine Primary School Deloraine: \$2 million for new library
- East Ulverstone Primary School Ulverstone: \$2 million to extend hall
- Fairview Primary School New Norfolk: \$2 million to extend classrooms
- Forth Primary School Forth: \$2 million for new performing arts centre
- Lilydale District School Lilydale: \$2 million for new hall
- Oatlands District High School Oatlands: \$2 million for new hall
- Punchbowl Primary School Newstead: \$2 million for new classrooms and kindergarten
- St Leonards Primary School St Leonards: \$2 million to extend library and administration area (*The Mercury*)

June 13<sup>th</sup> Tasmanian broccoli growers are set to become more competitive on the global market with the introduction of new harvesting technology. Ulverstone machinery company Dobmac in the state's north-west is putting the finishing touches on a brassica harvester, which it started developing three years ago. A commercial version of the harvester should be available by early 2010. The machines will be built at Dobmac's Ulverstone base and sold worldwide. (*The Advocate*)

June 15<sup>th</sup> The Tasmanian State Government budget has committed more than \$3 million for several large projects to start in the next financial year at Scottsdale in the state's north-east. Dorset Mayor Peter Partridge said a new trade training centre for Scottsdale was also identified in the budget and would be built at the local high school campus. "At the moment locals and others doing construction trades have to go to Hobart to do their training courses," he said. "There will hopefully be a spin-off from this that will see young people doing their training courses here". A further \$255,000 will fund the installation of a 1.5 kilometre walking track from Listers Lane to Coppelstone Street including a foot bridge and draining and fencing work. Councillor Partridge welcomed the injection of funds but warned that there was still much to be done in the region to help it back from the financial gloom of several major industries shutting down. (*The Examiner*)

June 17<sup>th</sup> The private developers of eight luxury multi-million dollar townhouses on the Inglis River waterfront at Wynyard in north-west Tasmania say construction will begin in August 2009. The Waratah-Wynyard Council has also announced plans for a \$750,000 upgrade of the nearby wharf and jetty. (*The Advocate*)

June 17<sup>th</sup> Nearly 900,000 people visited Tasmania in the 12 months to March, an increase of 7 per cent over the previous year, according to the latest Tourism Tasmania figures. Convention and conference visitors increased by 22 per cent while total visitor nights were up 4 per cent, to 7.45 million nights, and total spending in Tasmania grew by 7 per cent to \$1.43 billion. Growth was strongest in the number of interstate holiday visitors to the State. Nationally, interstate visitor nights fell by 10 per cent, overnight trips declined by 6 per cent, and overnight spend dropped by 10 per cent. (*The Examiner*)

- June 19<sup>th</sup> The heritage-listed Alfred Harrap building in Cimitiere St in Launceston in the State's north is being prepared for a multi-million dollar transformation into an executive hotel. The 40-room hotel is the final stage in the redevelopment of the adjoining Prince Albert Inn, known as the City Park Grand Hotel. The development also includes the former Old Empire building which now houses three meeting rooms with conference facilities. (*The Examiner*)
- June 26<sup>th</sup> Property sales statistics for Tasmania last month show a big increase in auction sales as overall sales dropped by 1.1 per cent. The Real Estate Institute of Tasmania's (REIT) May Property Report shows the number of houses sold had decreased from April but recorded a 43.4 per cent increase in comparison to May last year. "The state-wide median house price for Tasmania in May was \$280,000, resulting in a recorded 1.8 per cent drop for the month but remaining steady on the same time last year," REIT president Peter Bushby said in a media statement. (*The Examiner*)
- June 27<sup>th</sup> Tasmanian Premier and Minister for Education and Skills, David Bartlett, has welcomed Australian Government funding of \$12.2 million to modernise and improve the quality of teaching and learning of Vocational Education and Training (VET) in Tasmania. The Tasmanian Polytechnic and Tasmanian Skills Institute, with Skills Tasmania, have been successful in securing the Training Infrastructure Investment for Tomorrow (TIIFT) funding which will improve teaching and learning in construction and hospitality in Launceston in the state's north. The funding will include \$6.4 million for the Tasmanian Skills Institute for a new state of the art Construction and Allied Trades facility in Launceston and \$5.8 million in funding to the Tasmanian Polytechnic for the construction of a new state of the art sustainable training centre also in Launceston. Work on both projects is scheduled to begin in July and will be completed by June 2010. "This funding brings the total of Australian Government funding for Tasmanian VET infrastructure up to almost \$17 million for 2009-10" Mr Bartlett said.
- June 30<sup>th</sup> Tasmanian Premier David Bartlett has freed up funding for eight child and family centres. The first allocation of \$27.4 million in 2009-10 will see centres set up at East Devonport and Queenstown in the state's northwest, Beaconsfield, George Town, and Ravenswood in the state's north and Clarendon Vale, Chigwell and Risdon Cove in the state's south. The funding is part of a \$76 million package that will be spent establishing 30 centres in the state over three years. (*The Mercury*)
- June 30<sup>th</sup> The Federal Government has agreed to increase a \$4 million grant under the Automotive Industry Structural Adjustment Program to \$7 million in an effort to stave off insolvency and save 280 jobs at the ACL Bearings plant based in Launceston in the state's north. (*The Advocate*)