THE TASMANIAN ECONOMY – OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

PRESENTATION TO TASMANIAN LEADERS' PROGRAM

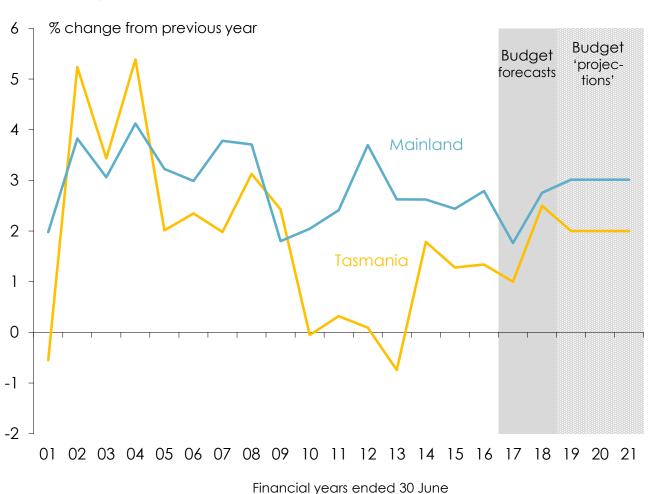
NORTHERN TASMANIA INTEGRATED CARE SERVICE, LAUNCESTON – 16TH JUNE 2017

SAUL ESLAKE

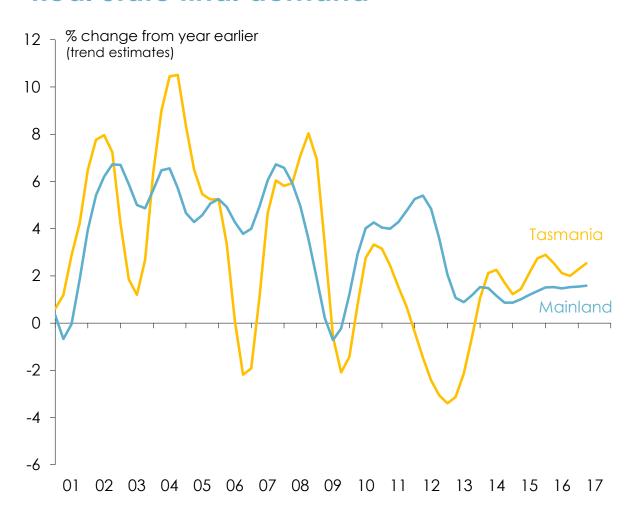
Recent developments in the Tasmanian economy

Broadest measures of economic activity suggest that the pick-up in Tasmania's economy is continuing

Real gross State product



Real State final demand

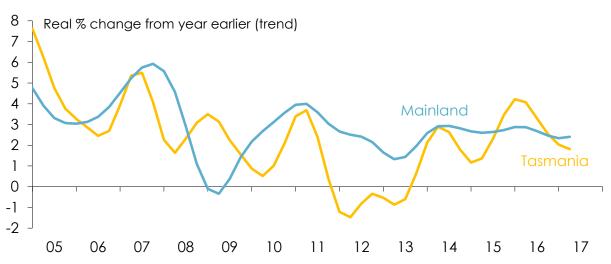


Note: 'State final demand' is the sum of spending by households, business and governments. It differs from gross State product by the sum of net interstate and international trade, and change in inventories. 'Trend' estimates are produced by 'smoothing noise from the seasonally adjusted estimates'; the ABS describes them as "the best source of information for forecasting or making decisions about what to do in the future". Sources: ABS 5220.0 and 5206.0; Tasmanian and Commonwealth 2017-18 Budget Papers.

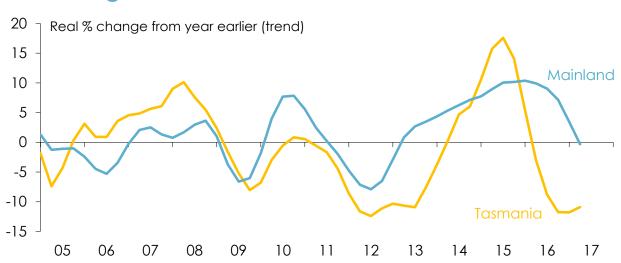


Business investment is picking up in Tasmania while public spending is still growing strongly, but household spending has slowed

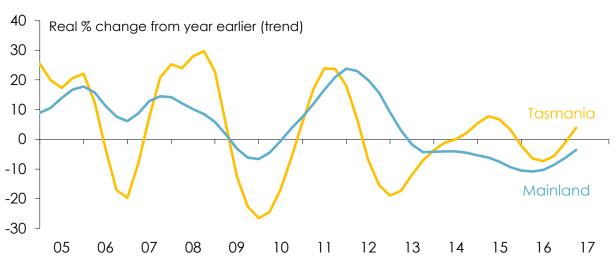
Household consumption



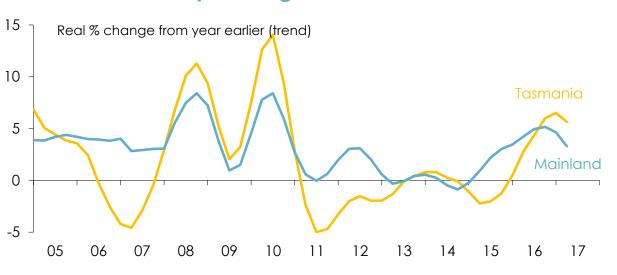
Dwelling investment



Business investment



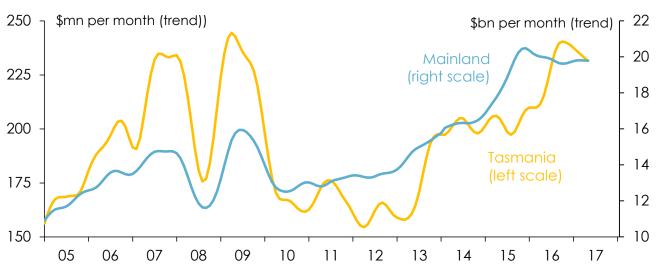
Public sector spending



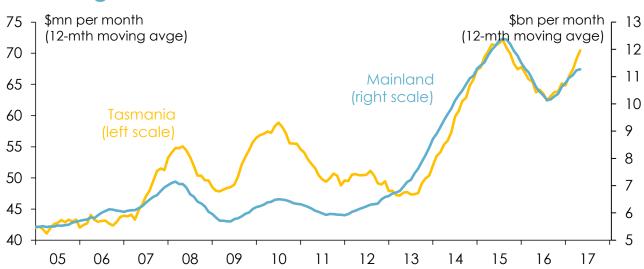


There are signs of an improvement in Tasmania's housing market, at a time when mainland capitals markets are close to or past their peaks

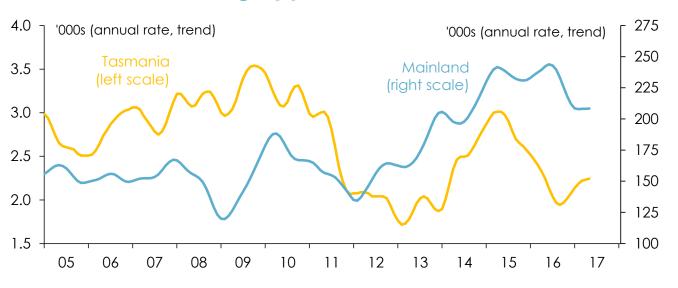
Housing finance commitments – home-buyers



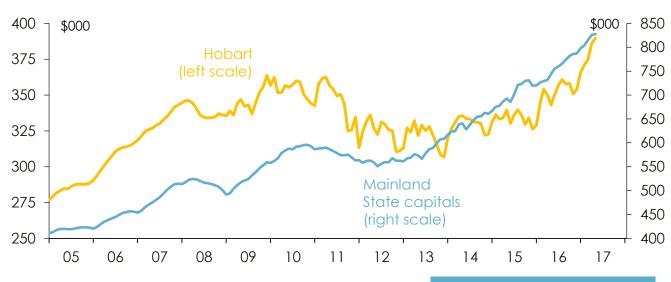
Housing finance commitments - investors



Residential building approvals

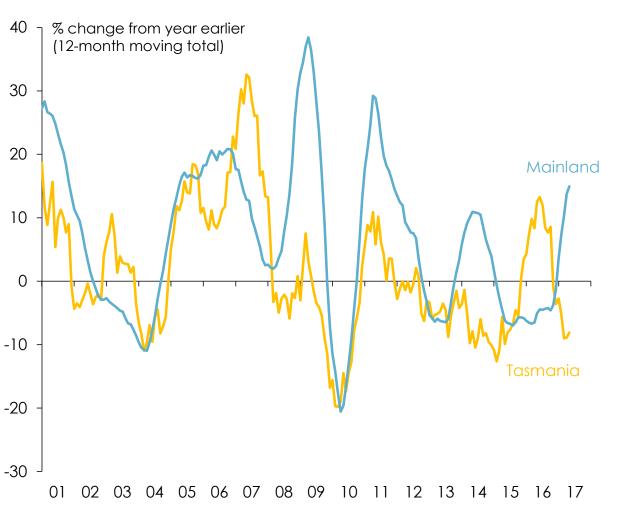


Capital city house prices

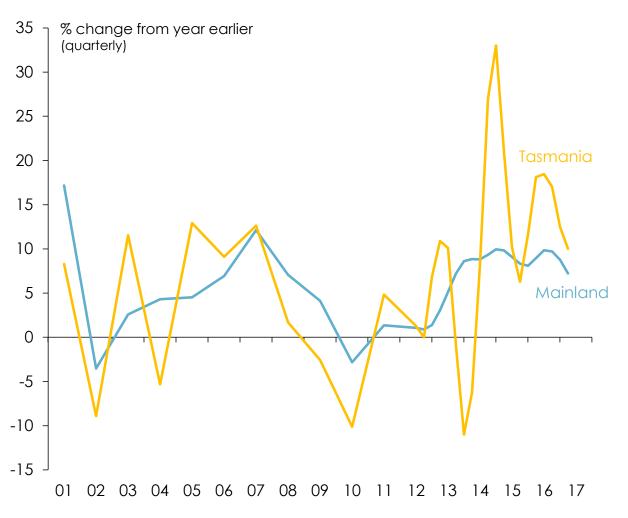


Tasmania's goods exports have been hurt by lower prices for metals and meat over the past year, but services exports are doing well

International exports of goods



International exports of services

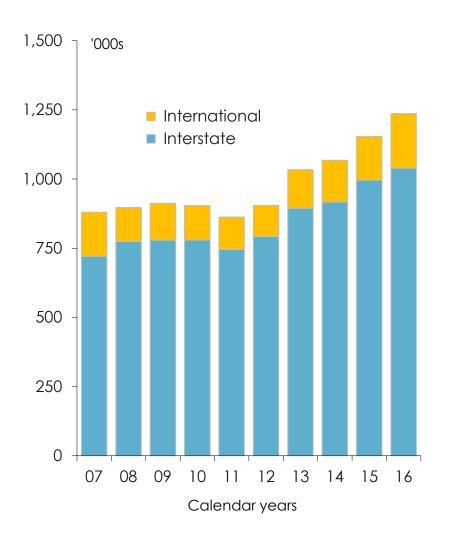


Note: Data are in current prices. Data for services exports are financial year totals until the September quarter of 2011 Sources: ABS 5368.0 and 5302.0.

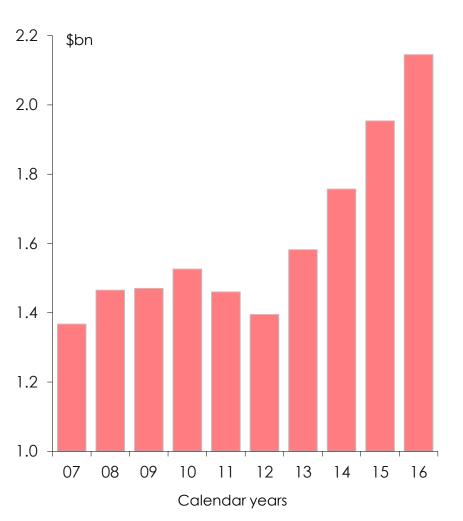


Tourism is a major driver of the growth in services exports

Visitors to Tasmania



Spending by visitors to Tasmania



Tasmania's 'market share' of visitors to Australia

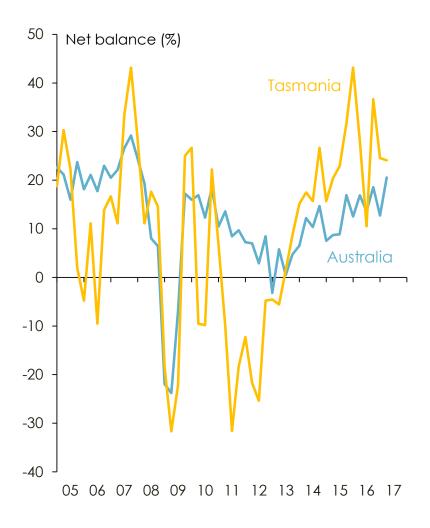


Sources: Tourism Tasmania Corporate; ABS 3401.0.

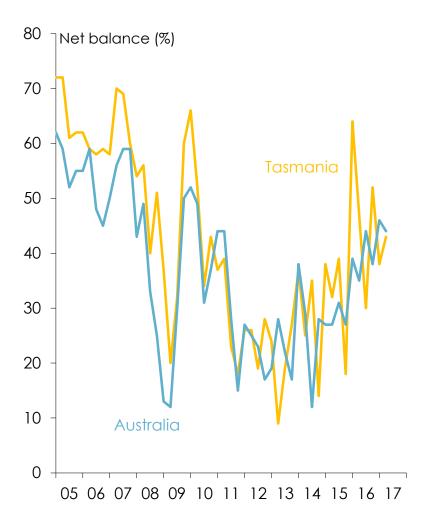


Business confidence in Tasmania is at a high level – and the State Government can claim at least some of the credit for that

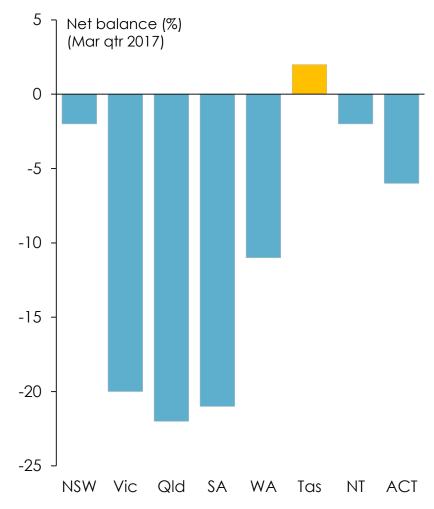
NAB Survey expected business conditions



Sensis SME Survey business confidence



Approval of State/Territory government policies

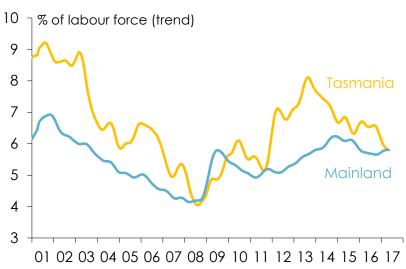




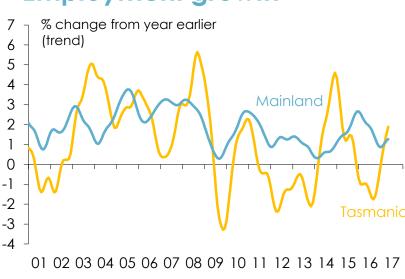


Unemployment in Tasmania is now lower than on the mainland: but that conceals a lot of on-going weakness in Tasmania's labour market

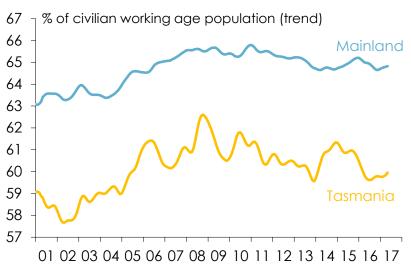
Unemployment rate



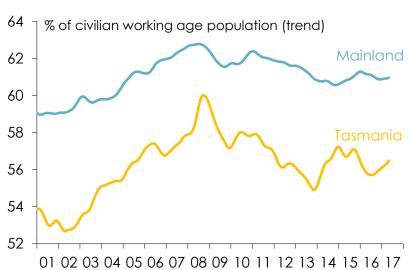
Employment growth



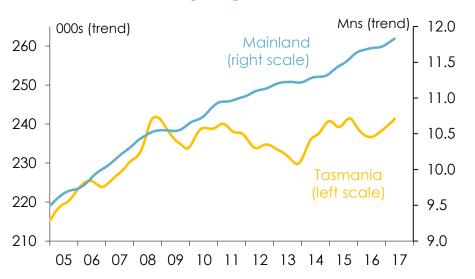
Labor force participation rate



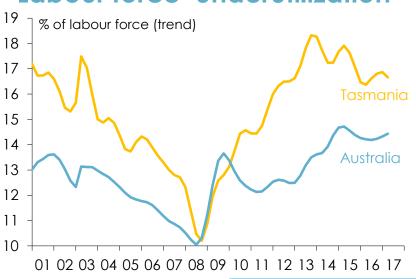
'Employment rate'



Level of employment



Labour force 'underutilization'

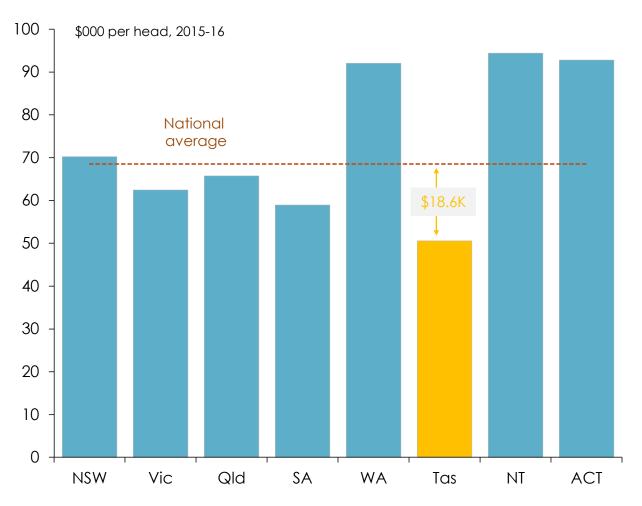




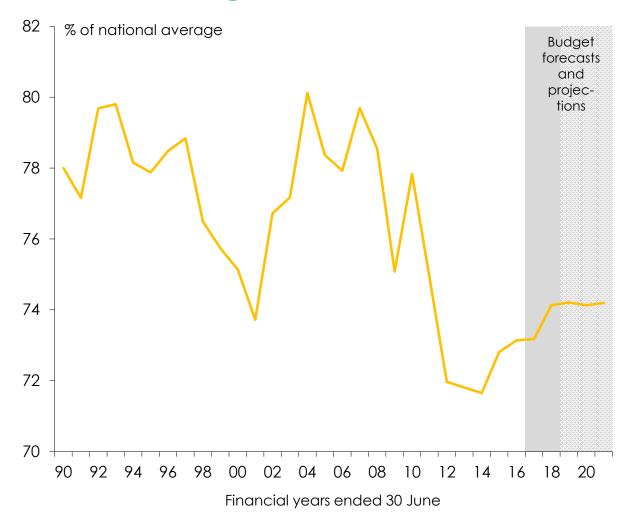
The longer-term economic challenge for Tasmania

Tasmania's per capita gross State product is \$18,600 or 27% below the national average

Gross State product (GSP) per capita, States & Territories, 2015-16



Tasmanian GSP per capita as a pc of national average, 1989-90 to 2020-21



Source: ABS 5220.0; Commonwealth and Tasmanian Budget Papers 2017-18.

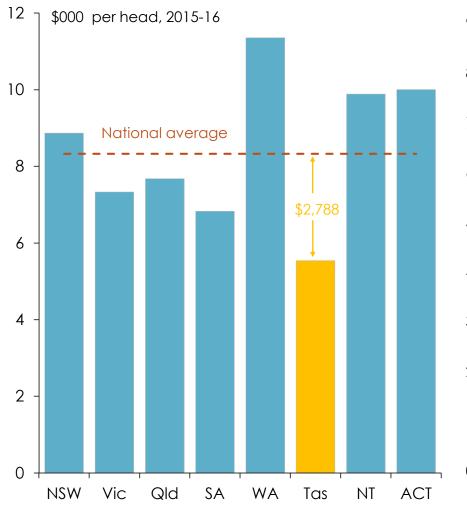


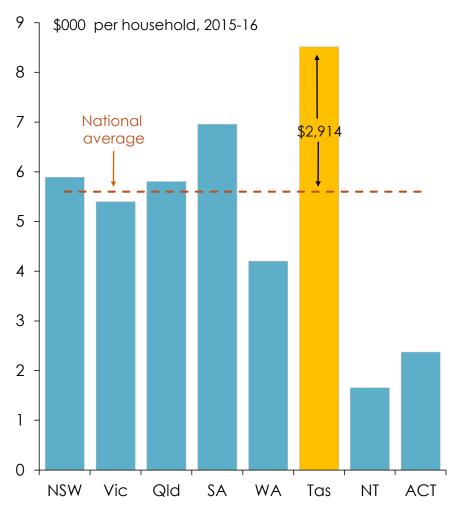
The national tax-transfer system shields Tasmanian households from the full effects of Tasmania's economic under-performance

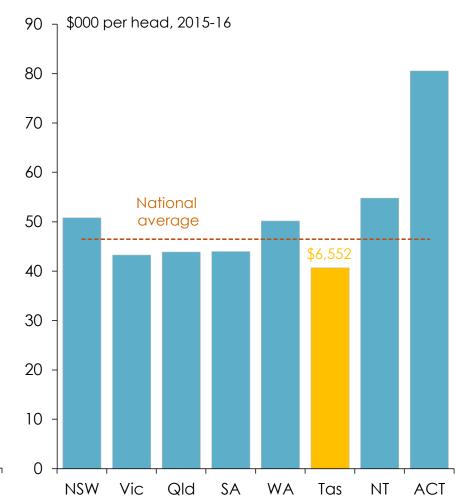
Personal income tax payments per head, 2015-16

Social security benefits receipts per head, 2015-16

Household disposable income per head, 2015-16







Source: ABS 5220.

Similarly the GST revenue-sharing system shields the State Government from the full impact of Tasmania's economic under-performance

GST revenue-sharing payments per head, 2015-16

State government 'operating expenses' per head, 2015-16





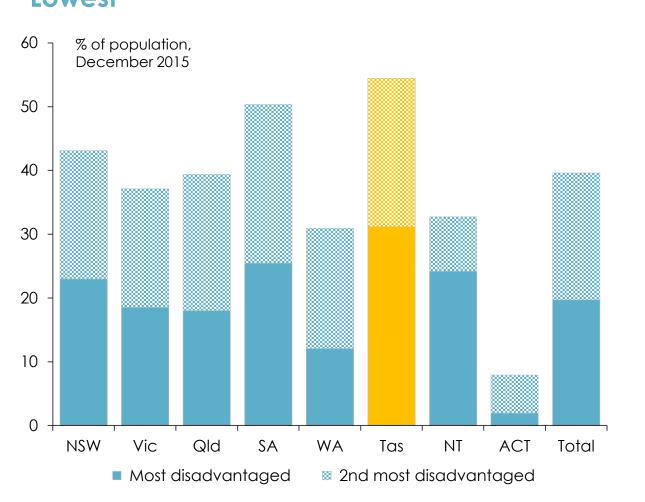


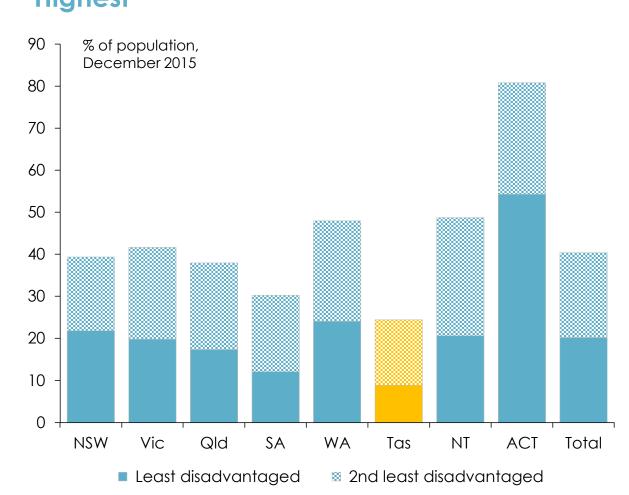


Tasmania has an above-average share of low-SES households, and a below-average share of high-SES households

Socio-economic status (SES) of households – States and Territories, December 2015

Lowest Highest



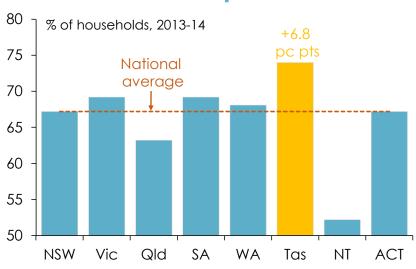


Source: Commonwealth Grants Commission, Report on GST Revenue Sharing Relativities – 2017 Update, Table \$1-3.



Of course, GDP, income and wealth aren't everything ...

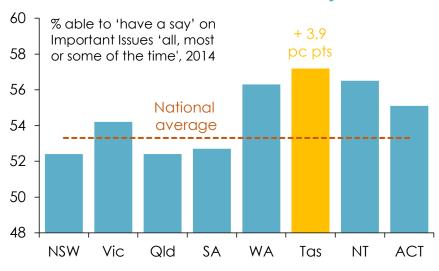
Home ownership rates



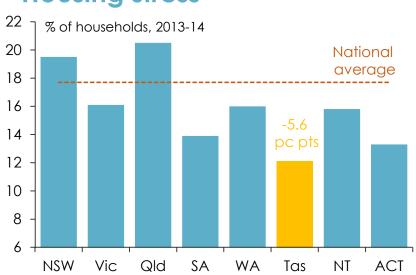
Commuting times



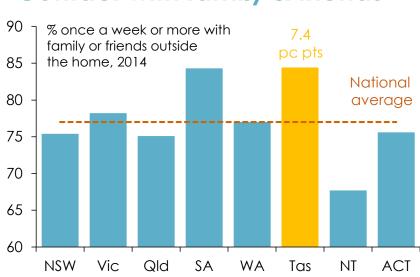
Feel able to 'have a say'



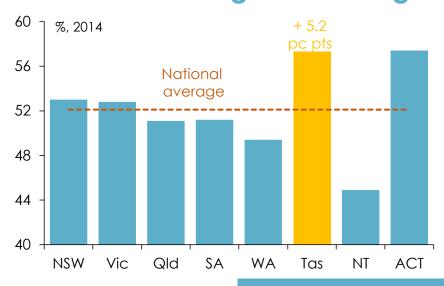
Housing stress



Contact with family & friends



Feel safe walking alone at night



Note: 'Housing stress' means spending more than 30% of gross household income on housing costs. Sources: ABS, 4130.0, AMP/NATSEM Race Against Time, ABS 4159.0.



... but Tasmanians nonetheless have lower levels of well-being than other Australians on many other non-economic indicators



Note: 'Obese' means body mass index (BMI) of 30 or more. 'High blood pressure' means ≥140/90 mmHg. Mental or behavioural problems includes organic mental problems, alcohol and drug problems, mood (affective) problems, anxiety related problems and other mental and behavioural problems. Sources: ABS, 3302.0.55.001, 4364.0.55.001, 3303.0.

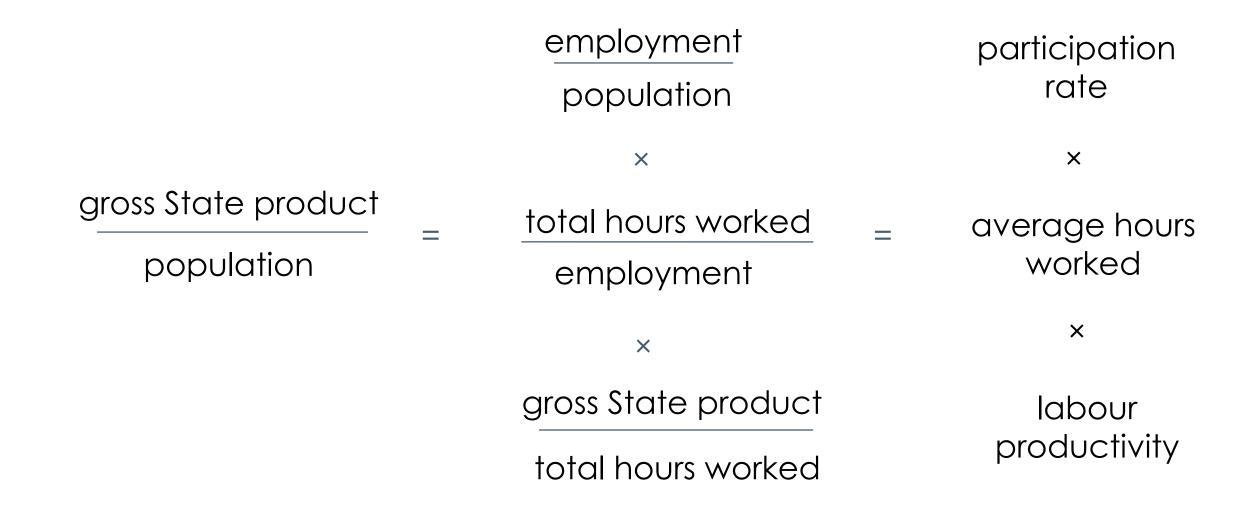


A useful way of thinking about the reasons for Tasmania's sub-par economic performance

employmen^{*} population X gross State product gross State product total hours worked population population empleyment X gross State product total hours worked



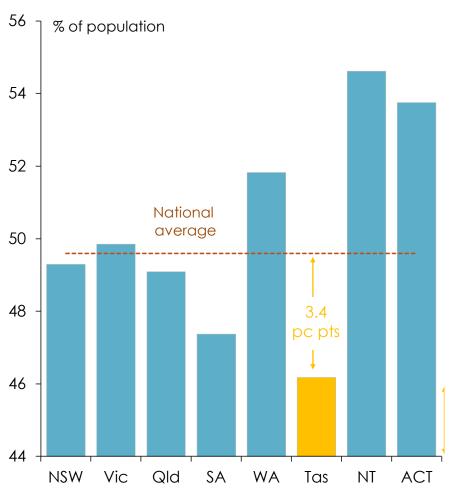
A useful way of thinking about the reasons for Tasmania's sub-par economic performance



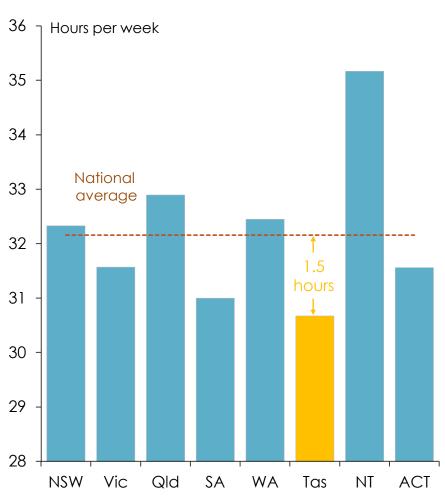


Tasmania's below-average per capita GSP reflects below-average employment participation, working hours, and productivity

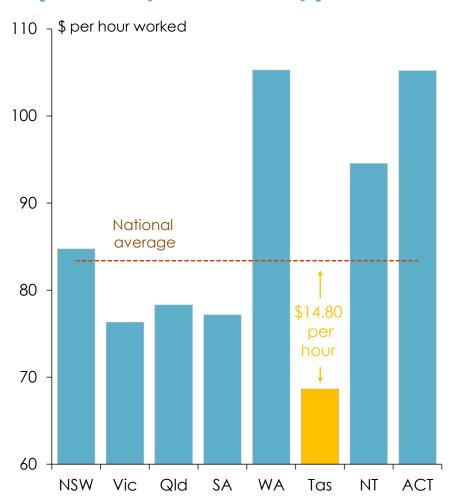
Employment-to-population ratio, 2015-16



Average weekly hours worked, 2015-16



Output per hour worked (labour productivity), 2015-16

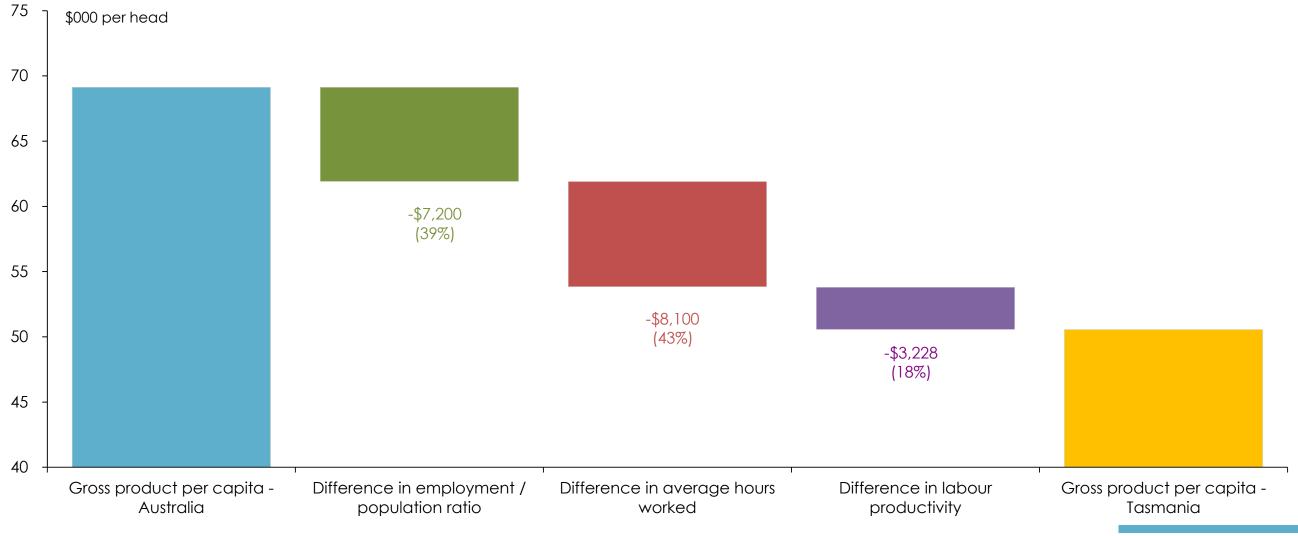


Source: ABS 5220.0 and 6201.0



Tasmania's below-average gross product per person reflects below-average employment participation, working hours and productivity

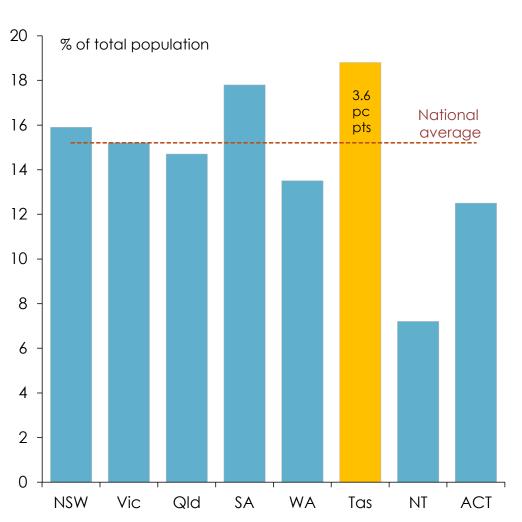
Sources of the difference in per capita gross product between Tasmania and Australia, 2015-16



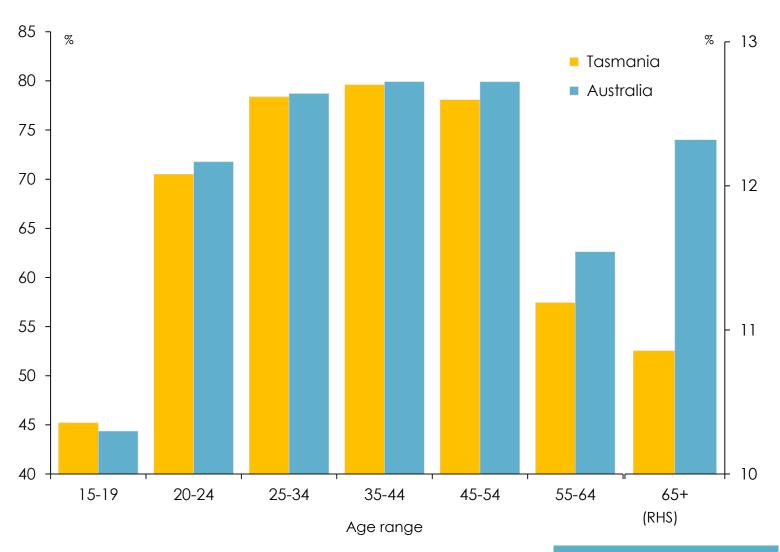


Tasmania's below-average workforce participation rate is partly the result of its older-than-average population - but not entirely

Population aged 65 and over, States and Territories, June 2016



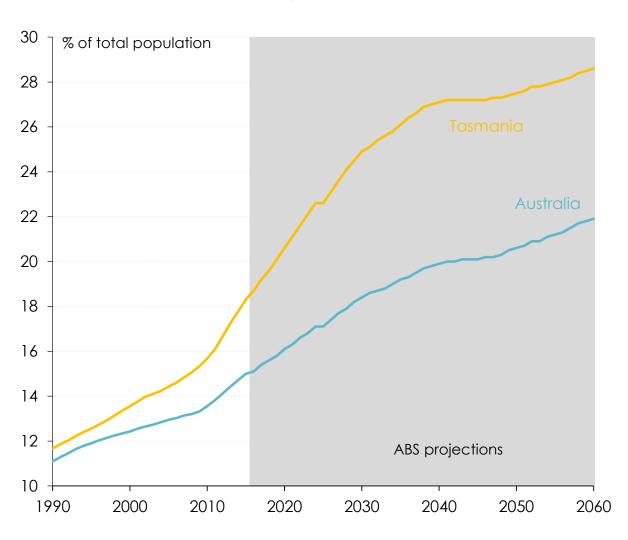
Employment as a pc of population, by age, Tasmania vs national average, 2015-16



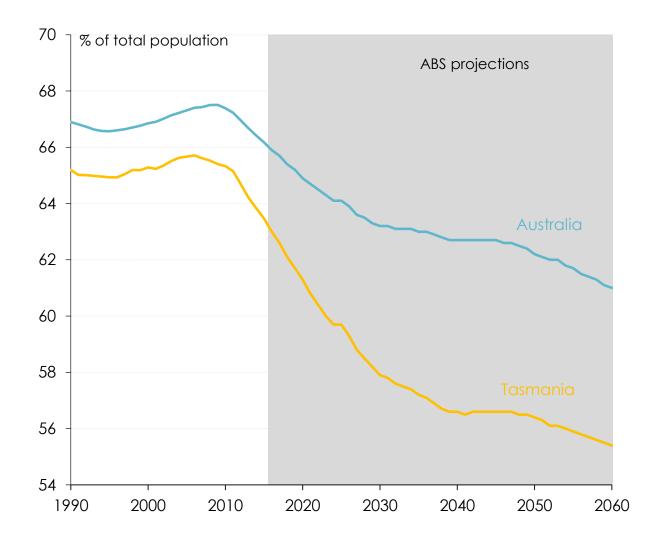
Source: ABS 3101.0 and 3105.0.65.001.

Tasmania's population is going to age even more rapidly over the next 25 years than it has done over the past 25 ...

Pc of population aged 65 and over



Pc of population aged 15-64

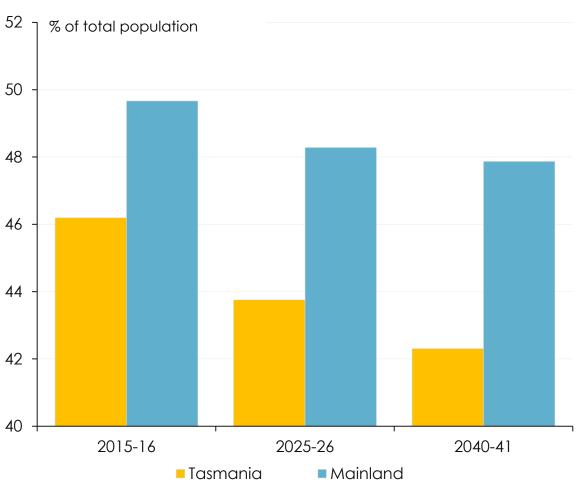


Source: ABS, Population Projections, Australia, 2012 (base) to 2101 (catalogue no. 3222.0).

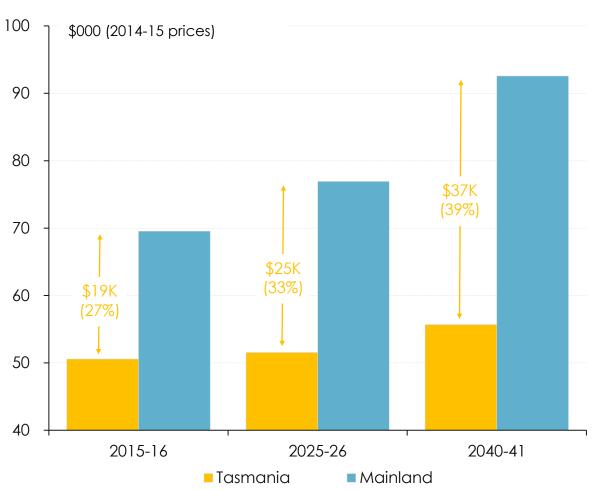


... which means that Tasmania's 'employment rate' is likely to fall further and all else being equal, the 'living standards gap' will widen further

Projected employment-to-population ratios, Tasmania and mainland



Projected levels of per capita GSP, Tasmania and mainland

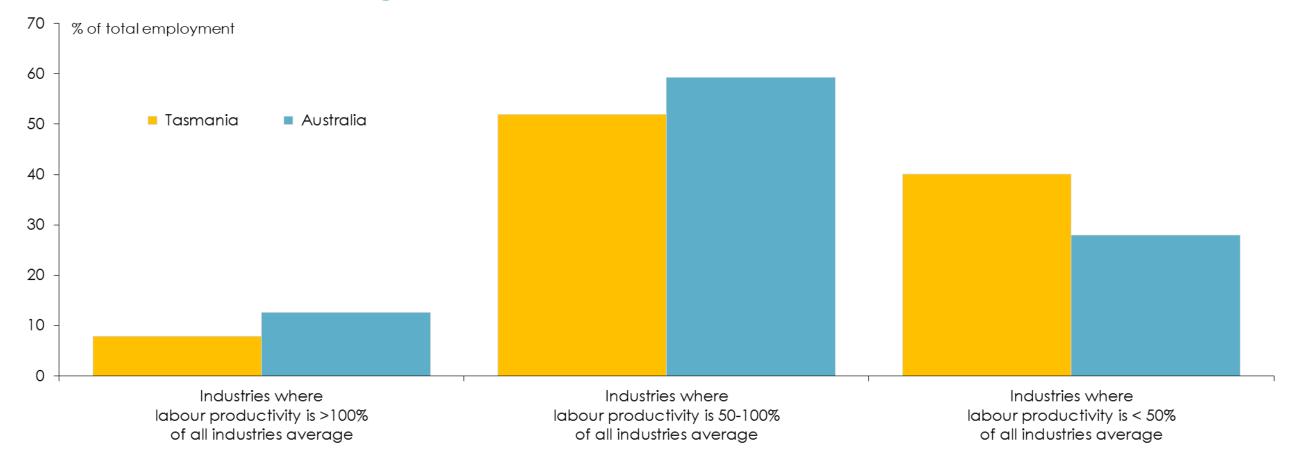


Note: Per capita GSP projections assume average hours worked unchanged at 2015-16 levels, and productivity growth for Tasmania and mainland continuing at the same rates as over the ten years to 2015-16. Source: ABS.



'High-productivity' industries are 'under-represented' in the Tasmanian economy, while 'low-productivity' industries are 'over-represented'

Proportion of workforce employed in industries where Australia-wide productivity is above or below the average for all industries – Tasmania and Australia, 2015-16



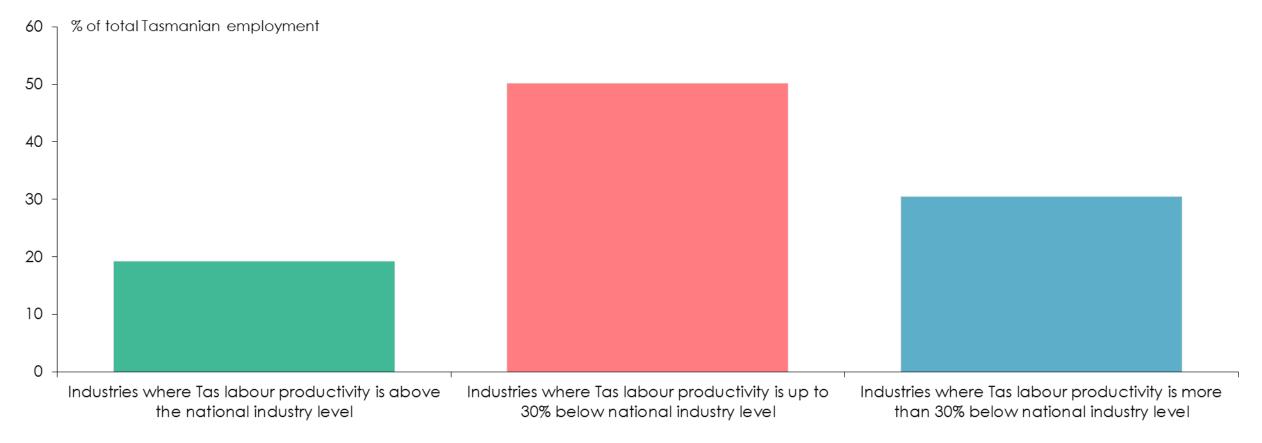
Note: Industries where Australia-wide labour productivity is above the national all-industries average are mining; financial & insurance services; electricity, gas, water and waste disposal services; rental, hiring & real estate services; and information, media & telecommunications services. Industries where Australia-wide labour productivity is between 50 and 100% of the all-industries average are wholesale trade; public administration & safety; administration & support services; construction; transport, postal and warehousing; manufacturing; professional, scientific & technical services; agriculture, forestry & fishing; and education & training. Industries where Australia-wide labour productivity is less than half the all-industries average are health care & social assistance; art & recreation services; retail trade; accommodation & food services; and other services.

Sources: ABS, Australian National Accounts – State Accounts (catalogue no. 5220.0) and The Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly (catalogue no. 6291.0.55.003).



More than 80% of the Tasmanian workforce is employed in industries where Tasmanian labour productivity is below the national average

Proportion of Tasmania's workforce employed in industries where Tasmanian labour productivity is above, or below, the corresponding national averages for those industries



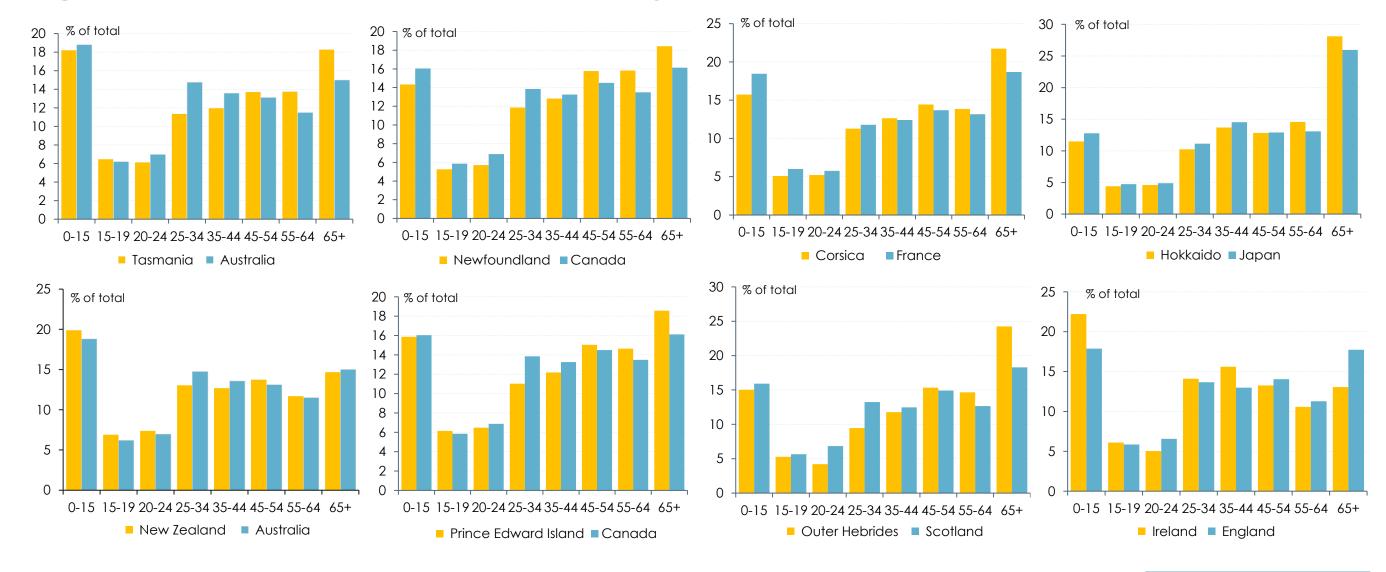
Note: Industries where Tasmanian labour productivity is above corresponding national industry average are electricity, gas, water and waste disposal services; financial & insurance services; information, media & telecommunications services; agriculture, forestry & fishing; transport, postal and warehousing; rental, hiring & real estate services; and wholesale trade. Industries where Tasmanian labour productivity is between 70 and 100% of the corresponding national industry average are administration & support services; manufacturing; education and training; public administration and safety; mining; construction; and health care and social assistance. Industries where Tasmanian labour productivity is less than 70% of the corresponding national industry average are professional, scientific and technical services; retail trade;; retail trade; accommodation & food services; art & recreation services; and other services.

Sources: ABS, Australian National Accounts – State Accounts (catalogue no. 5220.0) and The Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly (catalogue no. 6291.0.55.003).



Tasmania's demographic profile is by no means unique – many other islands have something similar or even starker

Age profiles of selected islands and their adjacent 'mainlands'

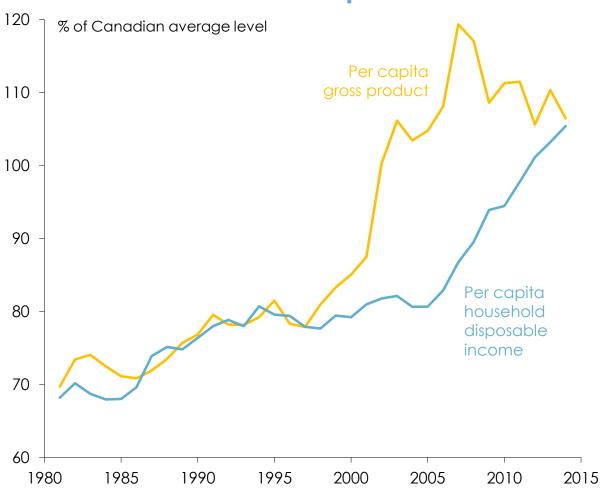




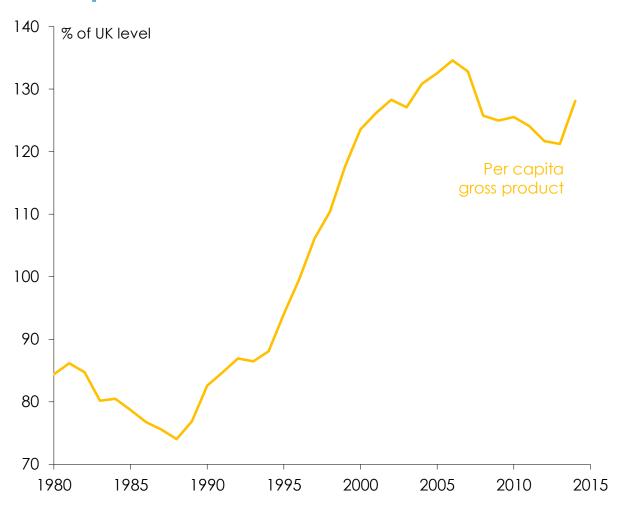


It is possible for island economies to overcome these disadvantages

Newfoundland per capita gross product and household income compared with Canada



Ireland per capita gross product compared with the UK



Sources: Statistics Canada; International Monetary Fund.

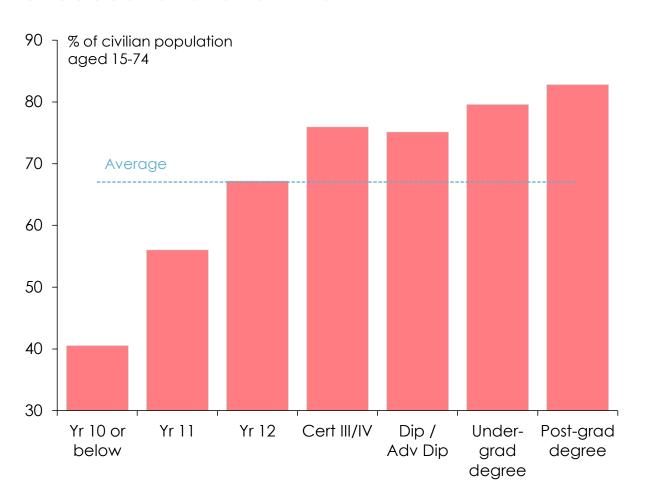


The importance of education

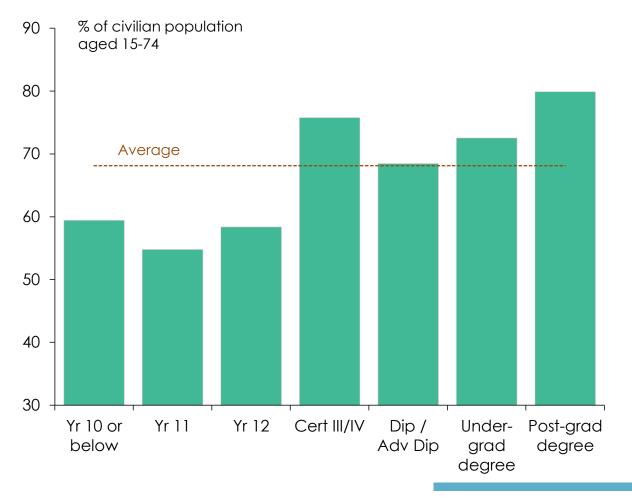
The higher a person's level of educational attainment, the more likely he or she is to be working – and to be working full-time

Labour force experience by level of educational attainment – Australia, May 2016

Employment as a pc of population, by level of educational attainment



Full-time work as a pc of total employment, by level of educational attainment



Source: ABS, Education and Work (catalogue no. 6227.0).

Educational attainment is also unambiguously correlated with earning capacity

- people who complete Year 12 have lifetime earnings which are 42% higher than those who leave school at Year 10, and 64% higher than those who do not go beyond Year 9;
- the lifetime of earnings of people who complete a bachelor's degree are 45-50% higher than those whose highest educational qualification is Year 12 while those of people with a higher degree are 66-74% higher than those of people whose highest educational qualification is Year 12.



So, clearly, Tasmania's below-average levels of educational attainment must be detracting from its economic performance

15-75 population with bachelor's degree or higher, May 2016



15-75 population with no qualification beyond Year 10 of high school, May 2016



Source: ABS, Education and Work (catalogue no. 6227.0).



It will be difficult to raise average skill levels in Tasmania while the proportion of Tasmanians doing Year 12 remains so low

Apparent school retention rates from Year 10 to Year 12, 2016



Apparent school retention rates from Year 10 to Year 12, Tasmania vs national average

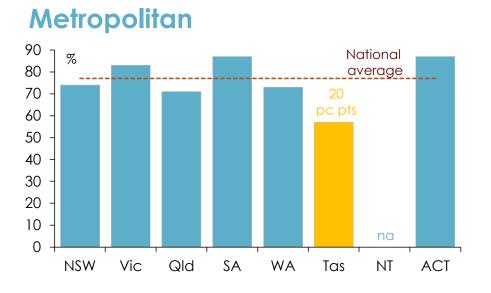


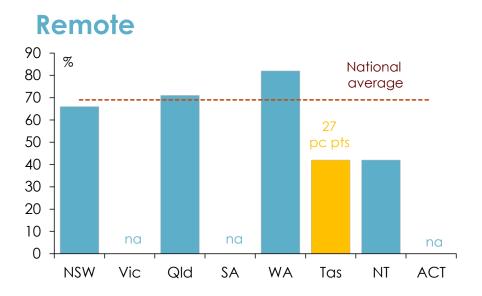




Tasmania's below-average Year 12 completion rates are <u>not</u> the result of more Tasmanian students coming from rural and regional areas

2015 Year 12 completion rates by students' location, States and Territories





A student from living in Hobart was <u>less likely</u> to have completed Year 12 in 2015 than a student from a provincial, remote or very remote location in any other State

Provincial



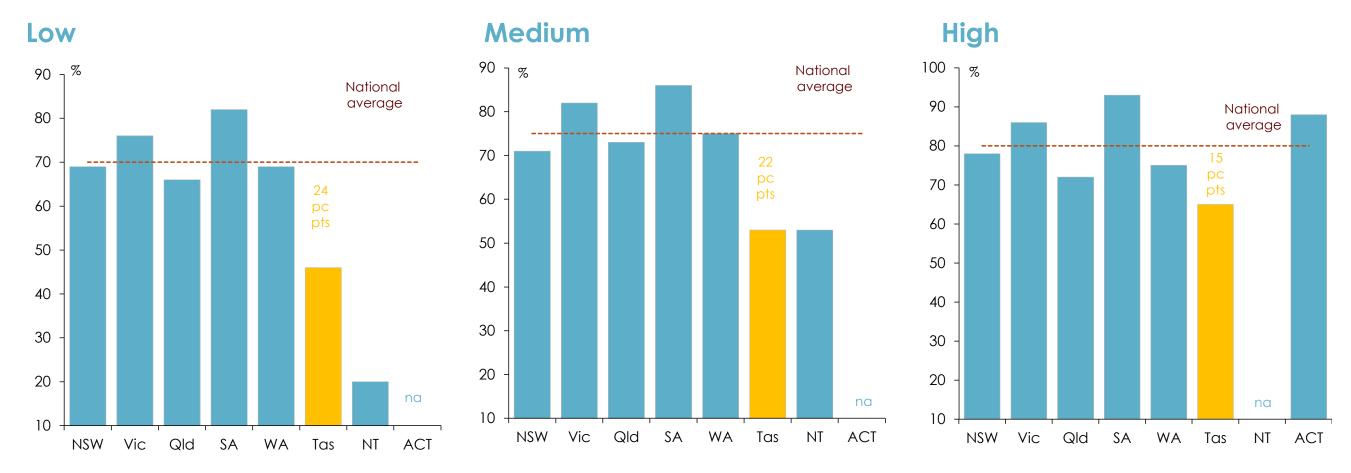
Very remote





Tasmania's below-average Year 12 completion rates are <u>not</u> the result of more Tasmanian students coming from low SES households

2015 Year 12 completion rates by students' socio-economic status, States and Territories

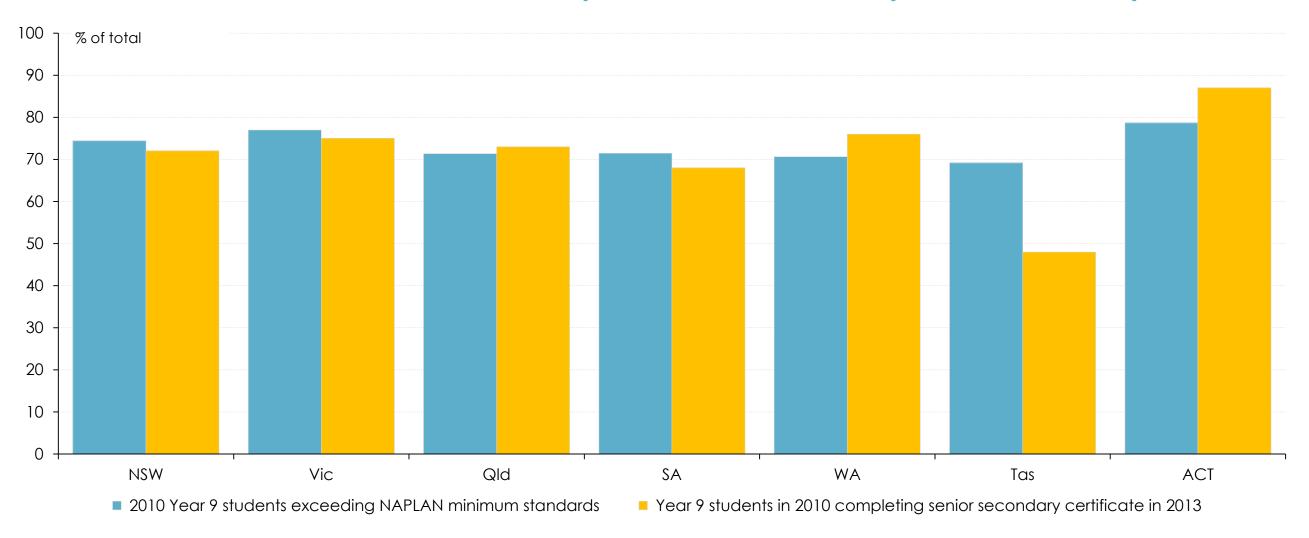


A student from a <u>high</u> SES household in Tasmania was <u>less likely</u> to have completed Year 12 in 2015 than a student from a <u>low</u> SES household in any other State



Tasmanian students do just as well as those from elsewhere in Australia at Year 9, but much less well at completing Year 12 – why is that?

Year 9 NAPLAN results 2010 and subsequent senior secondary certificate completions

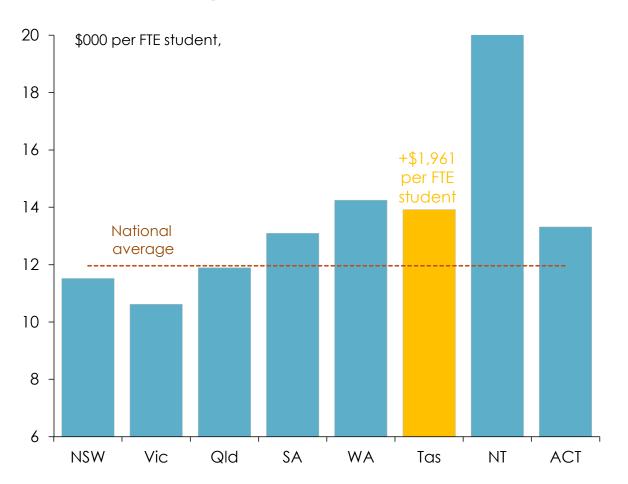




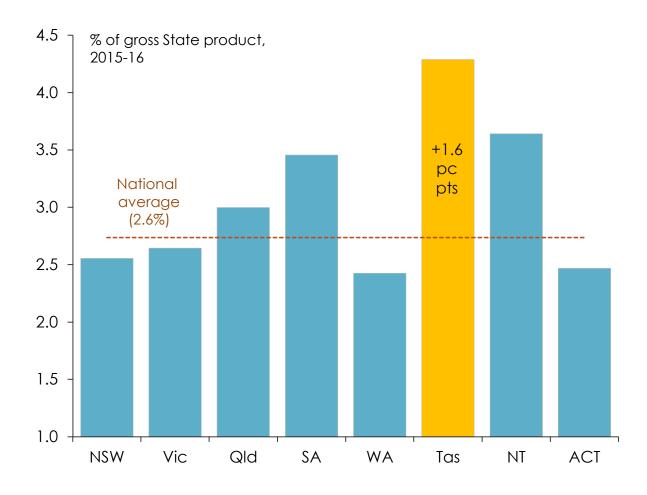
Nor are Tasmania's poor educational participation and attainment rates the result of insufficient government spending on education

State and Territory government spending on primary and secondary education, 2015-16

Per full-time equivalent student



As a percentage of gross state product



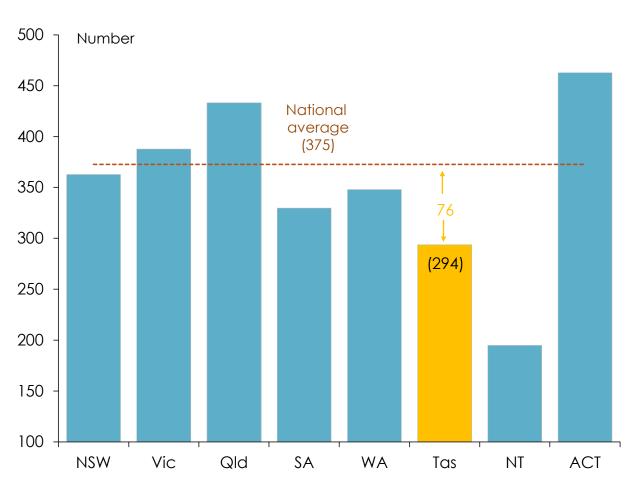




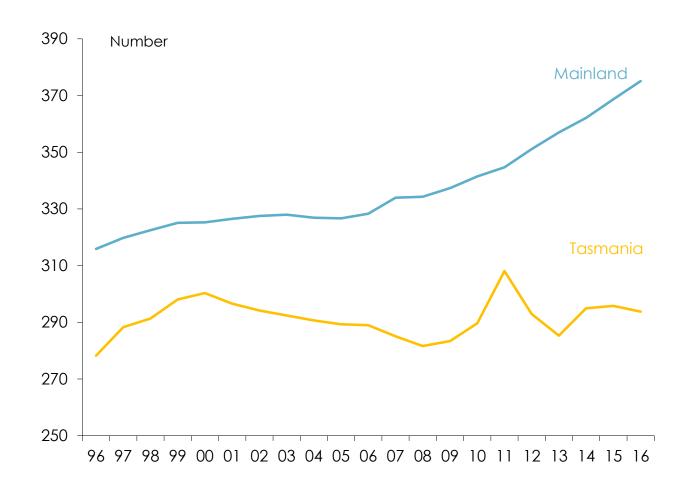
Rather, Tasmania spends what it does spend on school education rather inefficiently

Number of full-time equivalent students per government school

States and Territories, 2016



Tasmania vs mainland, 1996-2016

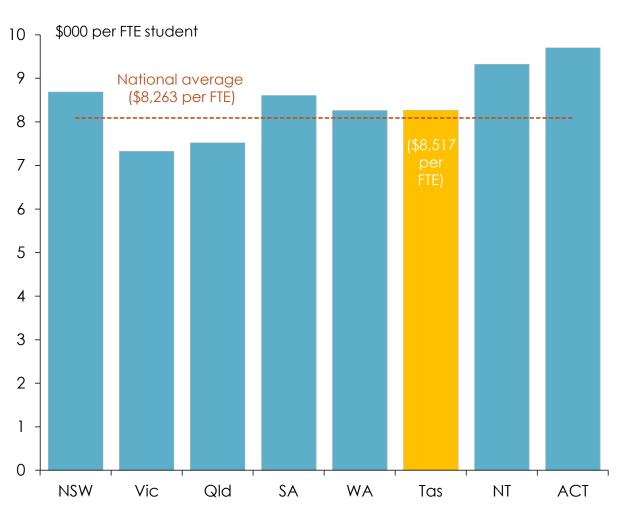


Sources: ABS 4221.0.

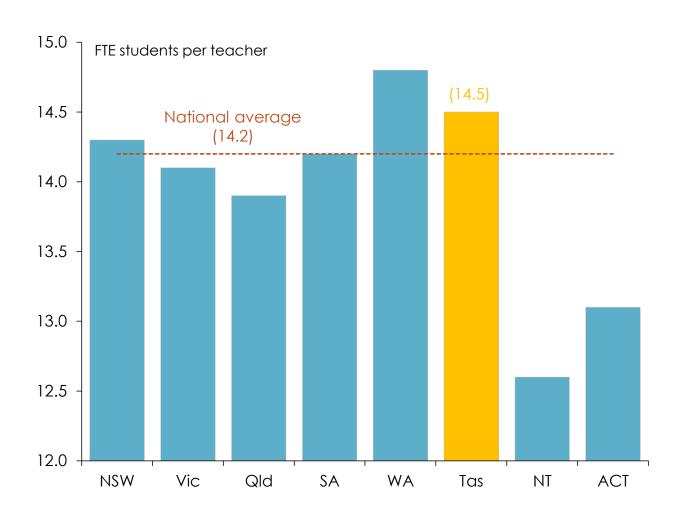


Tasmania spends about the same as the national average on teachers, and has similar class sizes to the national average

Spending on teachers in government schools, per FTE student, 2014-15



Average class sizes in government schools, 2015

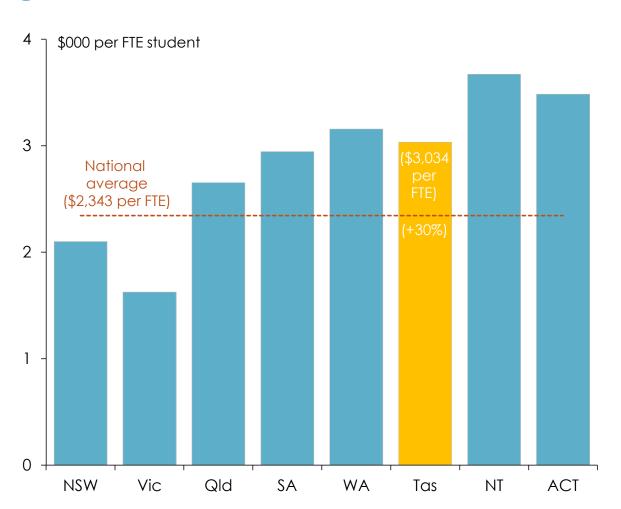




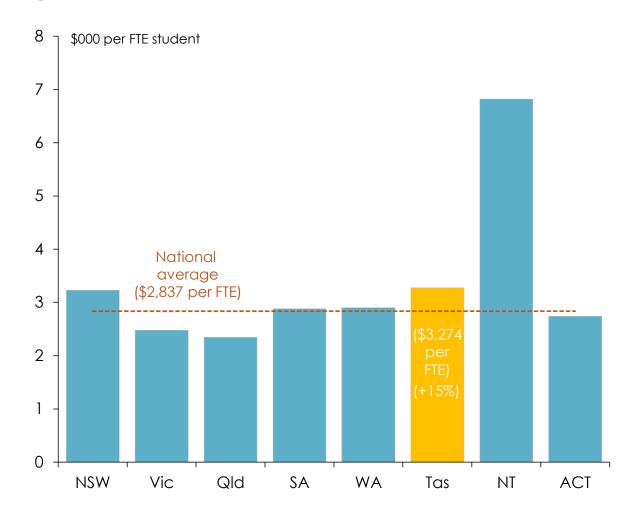


Tasmania spends about 30% more per government school student on non-teaching staff and 15% more on other costs than the national average

Spending on non-teaching staff per FTE government school student, 2014-15



Other 'operating expenses' per FTE government school student, 2014-15







Other reasons for Tasmania's poor Year 12 retention and completion rates

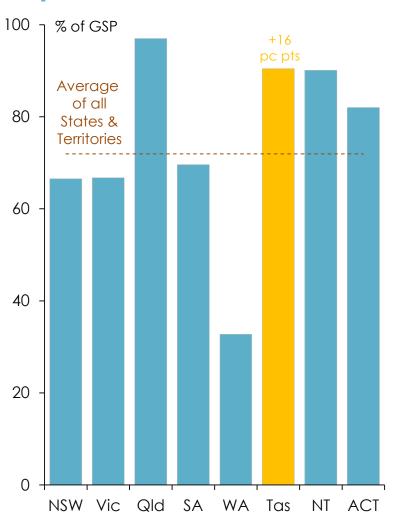
- ☐ Tasmanian children starting school at an older age than elsewhere
 - with the result that a larger proportion of Tasmanian students reach the age at which they can legally leave school at a lower grade than in other parts of Australia
 - the Government's proposed changes to the mandatory school starting and leaving ages prescribed by the Education Act sought to address this problem
- ☐ the 'structural break' in the government high school system between Year 10 and Years 11&12
 - with the latter years traditionally being taught at separate 'colleges', a system which exists nowhere else in Australia than in the ACT
 - which sends a signal that Year 10 is an acceptable 'exit point' from education
 - and which has historically been re-inforced by the common practice of describing end-of-Year-10 celebrations as "Leavers' Dinners"
 - progressive roll-out of Year 11 & 12 courses at rural and regional High Schools addresses this problem where it is most severe – but won't solve the problem in cities where three quarters of Tasmania's students live
- □ a culture in which "relatively low levels of educational attainment have become the norm"
 - that is, one in which low expectations regarding educational participation and attainment are passed on from one generation to the next
 - there is evidence that this is changing



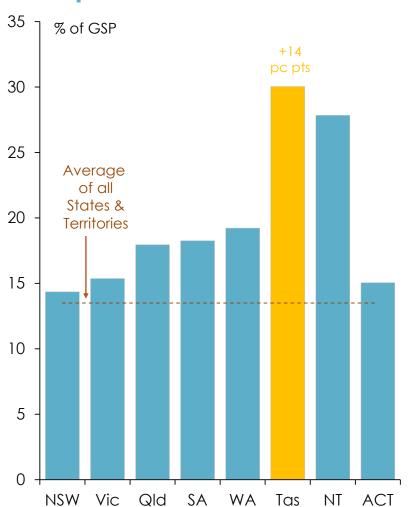
Tasmania's public sector

Tasmania has a relatively large public sector

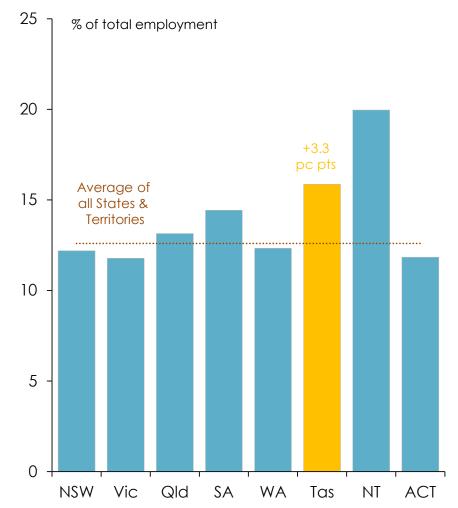
State public sector assets as a pc of GSP, June 2016



State public sector spending as a pc of GSP, 2015-16



State public sector employment as a pc of total, 2015-16

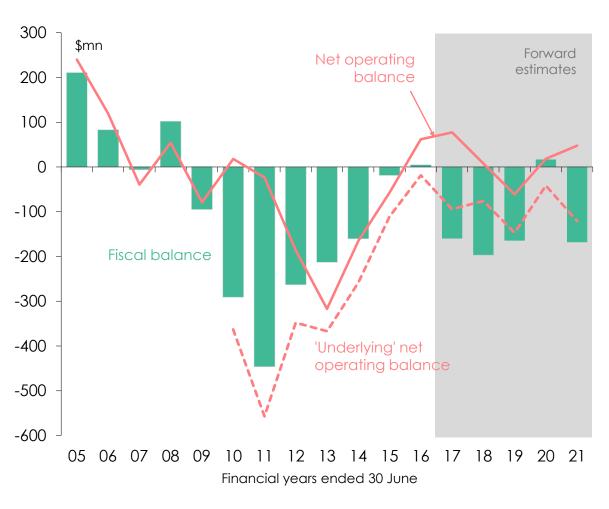




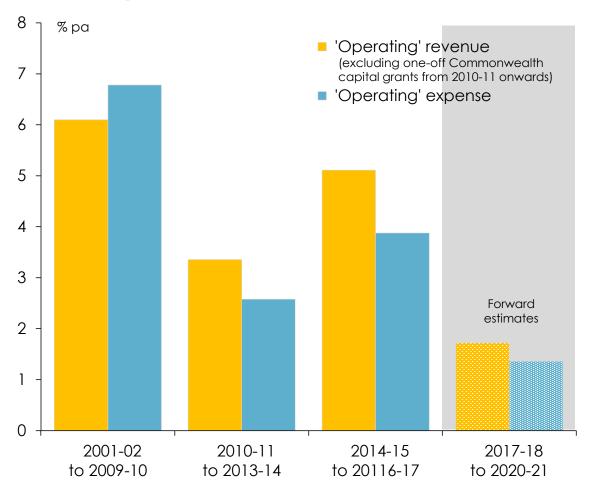


Tasmania's fiscal position has improved over the last three years – through a combination of good management and good luck

The 'general government' sector 'bottom line'



General government 'operating' revenues and expenses

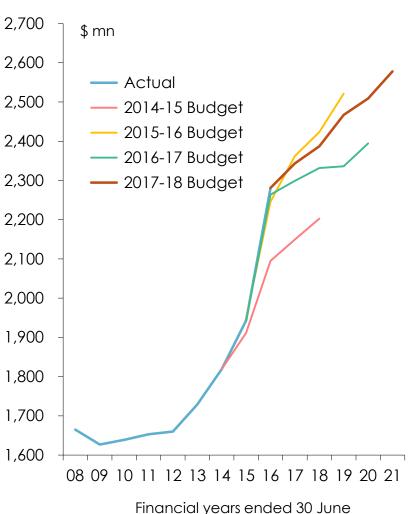


Note: 'General government' refers to the core government departments and other agencies funded wholly or largely by taxes, fees and fines, GBE income or grants from the Commonwealth. The 'underlying' net operating balance is the difference between those sources of revenue and 'operating' expenses such as employee expenses, grants and subsidies, depreciation and interest, excluding one-off Commonwealth Government payments eg for the Royal Hobart Hospital reconstruction and the transfer of the Mersey General Hospital. Sources: Tasmanian Budget Papers.

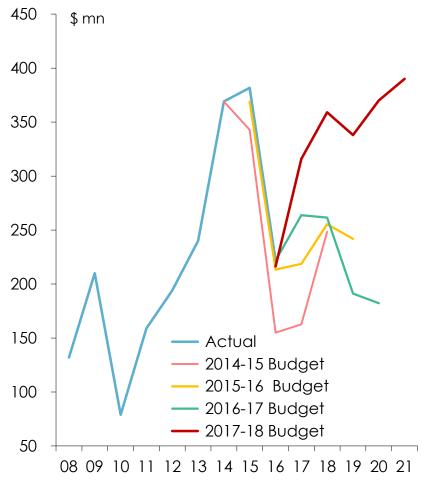


Tasmania's fiscal position has been aided by successive upward revisions to forward estimates of revenues

Successive forward estimates of GST revenue

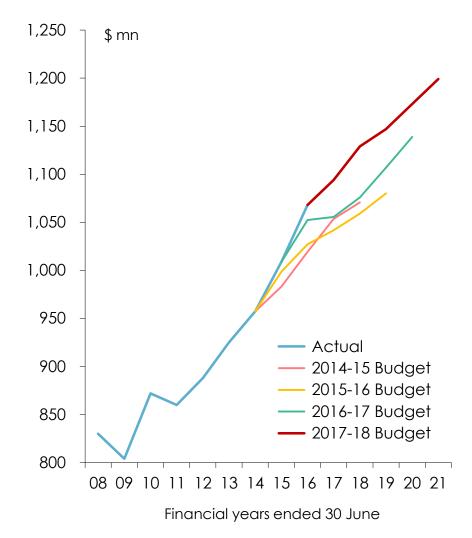


Successive forward estimates of GBE revenue



Financial years ended 30 June

Successive forward estimates of State taxation revenue

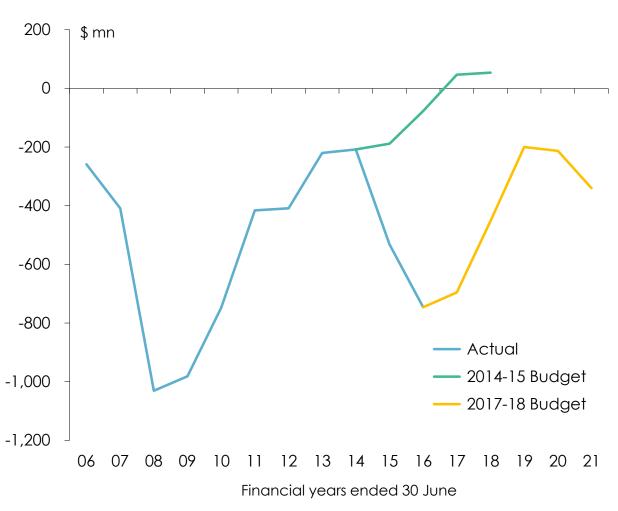




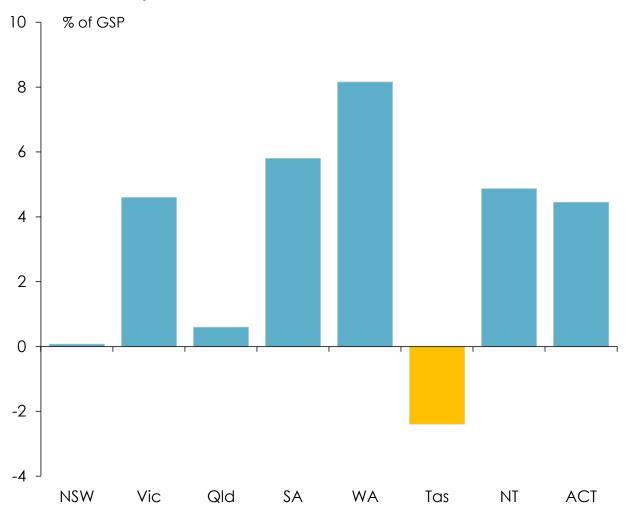


Tasmania is the only State or Territory where the 'general government' sector is a net creditor

Tasmanian general government net debt



State and Territory general government net debt, June 2017



Note: 'General government' refers to the core government departments and other agencies funded wholly or largely by taxes, fees and fines, GBE income or grants from the Commonwealth. The 'underlying' net operating balance is the difference between those sources of revenue and 'operating' expenses such as employee expenses, grants and subsidies, depreciation and interest, excluding one-off Commonwealth Government payments eg for the Royal Hobart Hospital reconstruction and the transfer of the Mersey General Hospital. Sources: Tasmanian Budget Papers.



Even though Tasmania's GBEs have a relatively large amount of debt Tasmania's total public sector debt is the second-lowest after NSW

Public non-financial corporations net debt, June 2017



Non-financial public sector net debt, June 2017

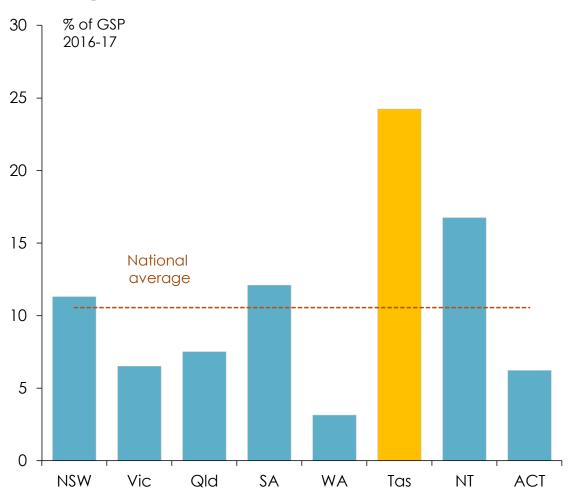


Sources: State & Territory 2017-18 Budget Papers (Vic, Tas, NT & ACT) and 2016-17 Mid-Year Reviews (NSW, Qld, SA & WA); ABS 5220.0 and 6248.0.55.002.

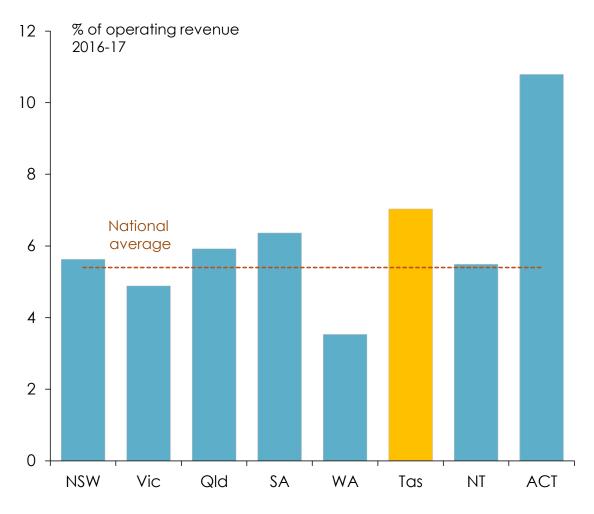


Tasmania's relatively sound net debt position is partly offset by its very large unfunded public sector superannuation liability

'Non-financial public sector superannuation liability, States & Territories, 30 June 2017



Superannuation expenses as a pc of 'operating revenue', 2016-17





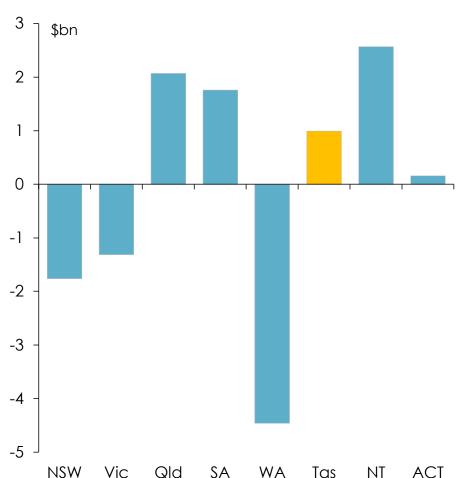
Tasmania's public finances are very vulnerable to a shift in the GST revenue-sharing arrangements sought by WA, NSW and Victoria

GST revenue shares per head of population, 2016-17

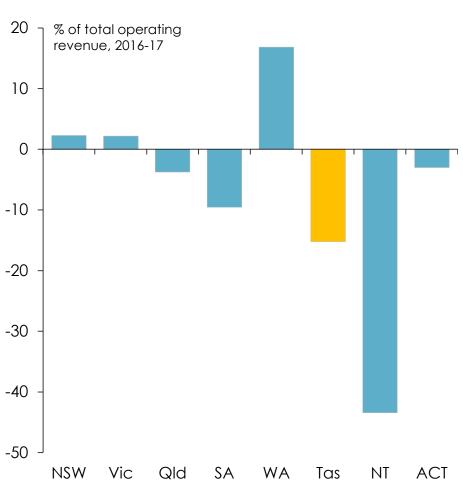




GST redistribution as compared with equal per capita, 2016-17



Impact of a shift to equal per capita GST distribution





NT

ACT



NSW Vic

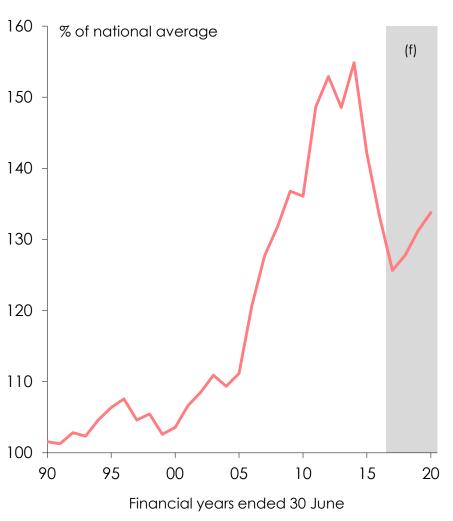
Qld

SA

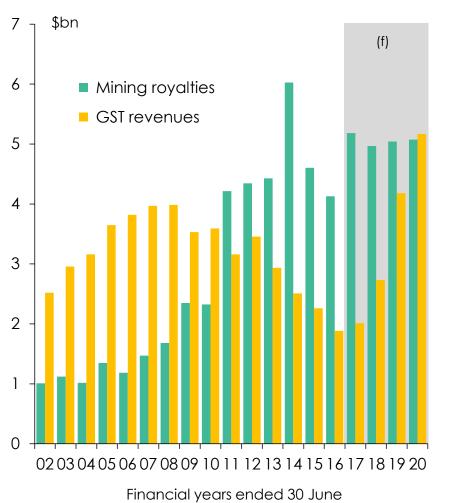
WA Tas

WA has been Australia's richest state by an unprecedented margin in recent years: its financial problems have been largely its own doing

WA GSP per head as a pc of national average



WA mining royalties and GST revenue shares



Growth in general gov't operating expenses per head



Sources: Western Australian and other State/Territory Budget Papers.



Tasmania's economic future

The Tasmanian economy of tomorrow has to be different from yesterday's

- □ The 'old' Tasmanian economy which Bob Cosgrove and Eric Reece built aided by Sir Allan Knight and Russ Ashton and which Robin Gray tried to prolong using borrowed money was only ever sustainable when 'the world' (as far as Tasmania was concerned) consisted of other high-cost locations such as the rest of Australia, Europe, North America and Japan
- □ In the world that has been evolving since the mid-1980s driven by 'globalization' and the rise of 'emerging markets', and rapid technological change it's no longer economically sustainable for Tasmania to rely on the volume production of essentially <u>undifferentiated</u> commodities competing solely on the basis of <u>price</u>
 - at least, not without paying much lower wages and taxes, and further despoiling the environment
- Instead, Tasmania's economic prosperity will increasingly depend on its ability to produce and market <u>highly differentiated</u> goods <u>and services</u>, embodying a significant <u>intellectual content</u>, for which customers can be persuaded to pay <u>premium prices</u>
 - this is the only way producers based in Tasmania can overcome the disadvantages inherent in small scale and great distance from markets whilst still being able to pay 'decent' wages, sufficient taxes to finance the public services Tasmanians want, and being able to maintain OHS, environmental and other standards
- □ That's not to say that there is no role for 'traditional' commodity-based / energy intensive industries in Tasmania they make an important and valuable contribution to the economy and employment
 - but we can't realistically expect them to be major drivers of future growth

The eight W's of Tasmania's economic future

- \square Wool: for >150 years Tasmania has been producing the finest, most expensive wool in Australia
- <u>Water: Hydro's renewable energy sold at high prices to mainland wholesale markets (and commanding an additional premium when carbon pricing returns) plus irrigation (an enabler for expansion of the dairy industry) plus premium water (from Cape Grim) in Qantas First Class and expensive restaurants and products from water (like salmon, abalone and oysters) and boat-building, marine engineering, Antarctic science etc</u>
- \square Wine: Tasmania now produces some of Australia's best, and most expensive, premium wines
- \square Whisky: high-priced distilled spirits branded using some of Tasmania's most distinctive characteristics
- <u>Wasabi</u>: and other horticultural products (cherries, onions, turnips, truffles, etc) sold to at high prices to customers in Northern Hemisphere countries (Japan, Germany, France) who are used to paying high prices, in their off-seasons
- \square Wagyu: high-priced beef (retailing in Japan for >A\$80 per kilo)
- Walking (and Wilderness): unique experiences for which tourists will pay premium prices (should include adventure tourism like New Zealand)
- \square Walshy: the unique MONA experience (and others like it)

For more details...

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