TASMANIA IN THE TIME OF COVID-19 (AND AFTERWARDS)

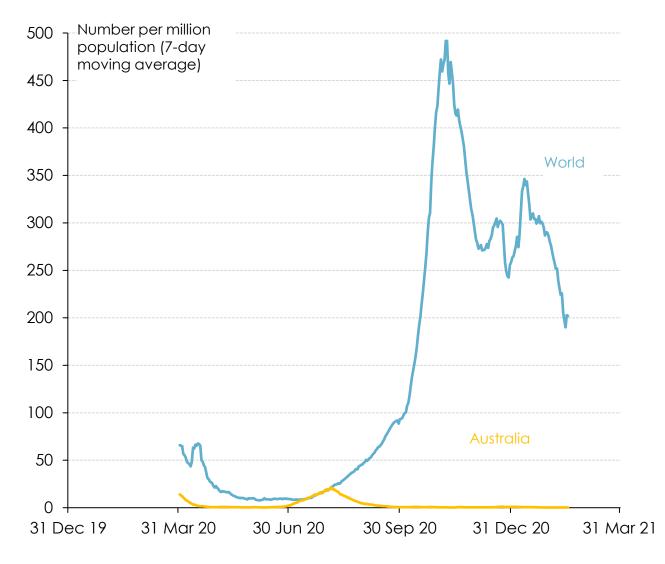
PRESENTATION TO THE PHARMACY GUILD OF AUSTRALIA TASMANIAN STATE CONFERENCE

> CROWNE PLAZA, HOBART 20TH FEBRUARY 2021

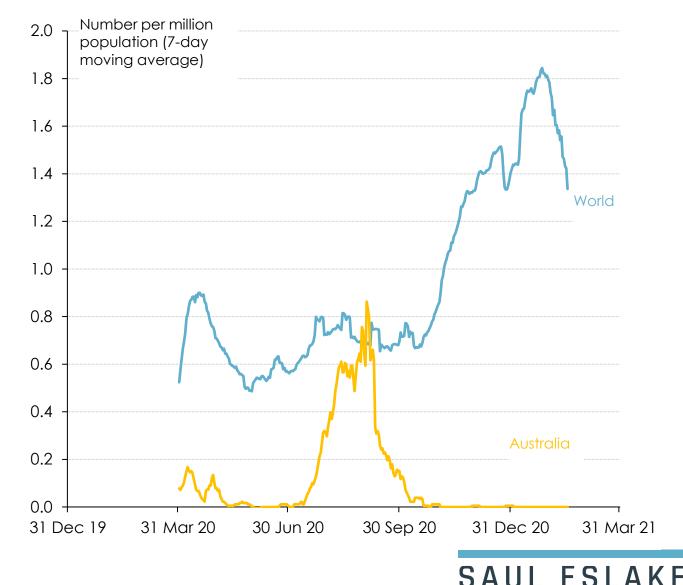


Australia has managed the public health dimensions of the Covid-19 pandemic exceptionally well, by international standards

New Covid-19 infections per million population, Australia vs the world

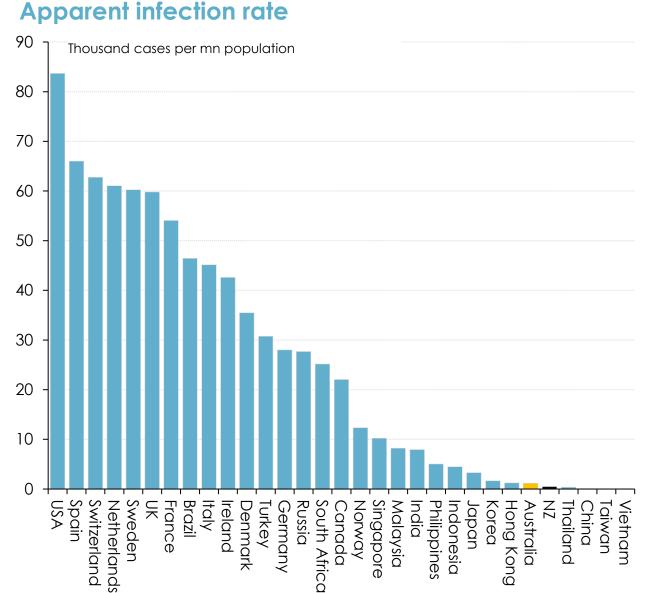


New Covid-19 deaths per million population, Australia vs the world

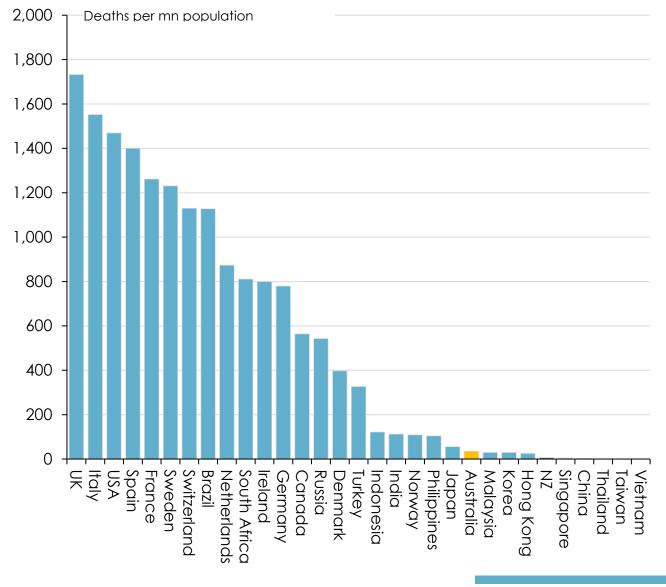


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Some countries have done better than Australia, but not many



Death rate



SAUL

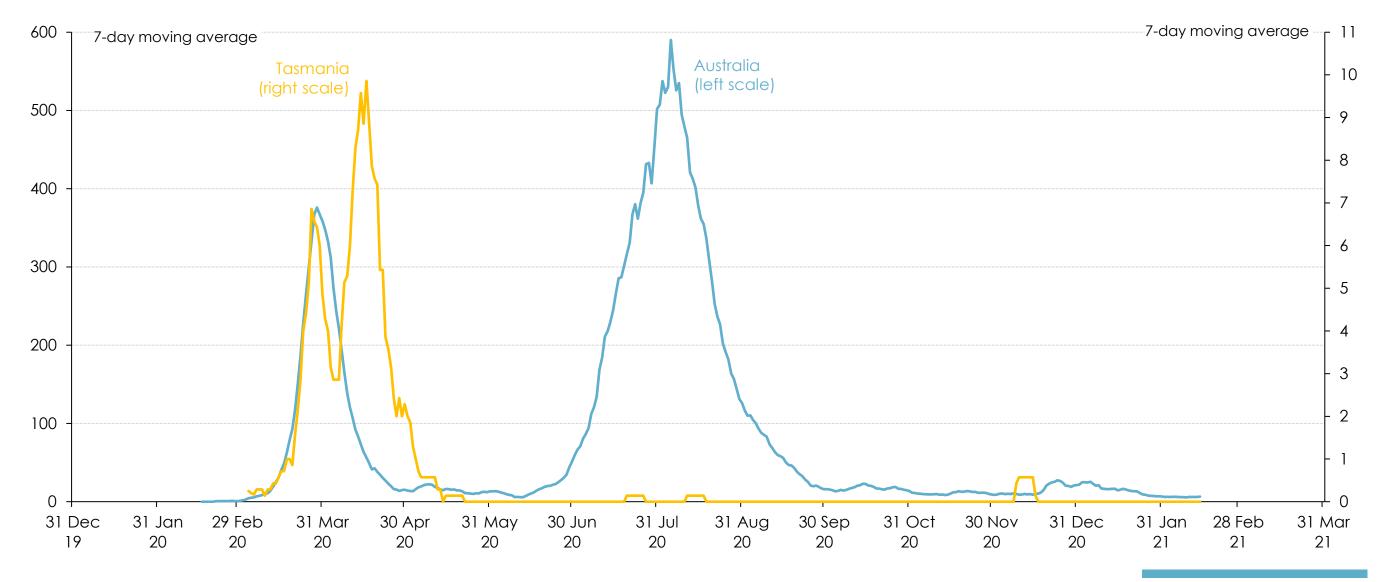
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CORINNA ECONOMIC ADVISORY

Note: Data up 16th February. Source: University of Oxford, Our World in Data

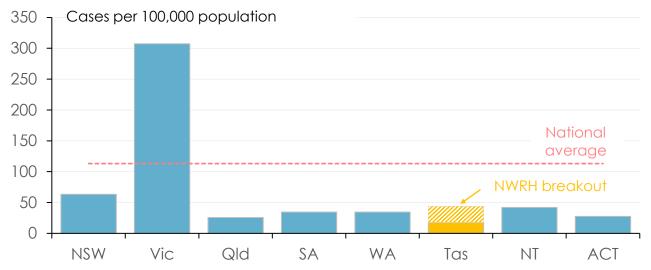
Tasmania has managed the virus very effectively, in absolute terms ...

New confirmed Covid-19 cases, Tasmania and Australia



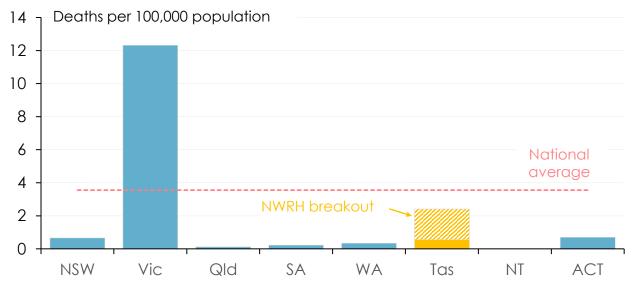
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... by comparison with other Australian states and territories ...



Confirmed cases per 100,000 population

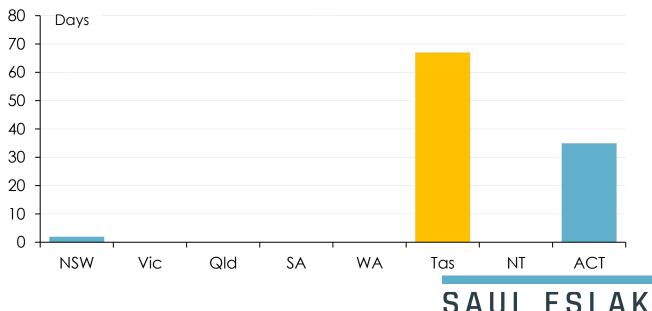
Deaths per 100,000 population



Days since last locally acquired case



Days since last any active cases



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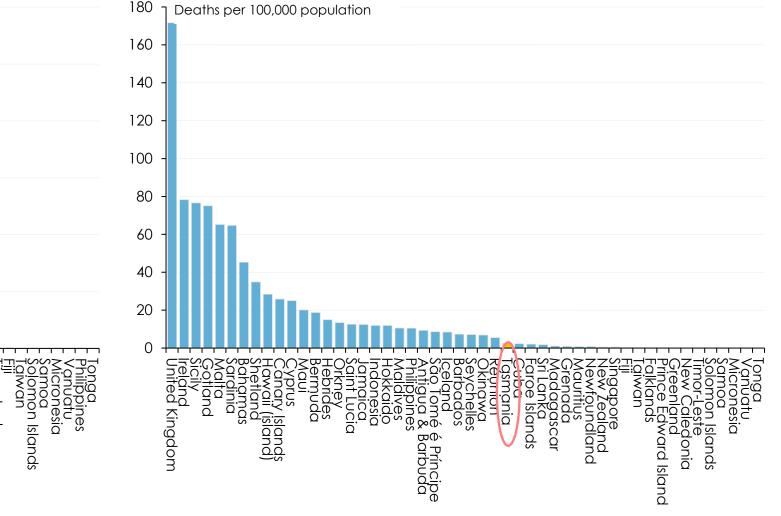
Note: Data up to 14th February. Sources: covid19data.com.au; ABS.

... and by comparison with other island nations, states and provinces

population, selected islands Cases per 100,000 population 6,000 180 Deaths per 100,000 population 160 5,000 140 4,000 120 100 3,000 80 2,000 60 40 1,000 20 ánd ted Kingdom ana d Kingdom lands n Islands ы Island Islands and Barbuda annor Príncipe Island

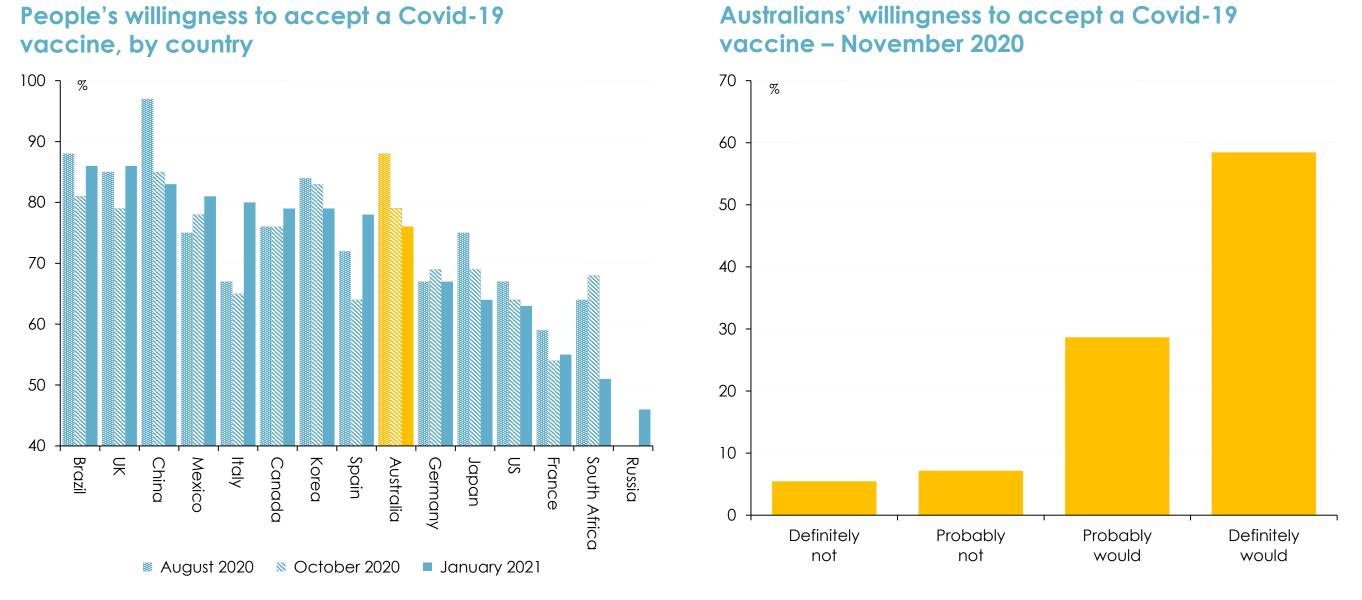
Confirmed Covid-19 cases per 100,000

Covd-19 deaths per 100,000 population, selected islands



Note: Data up to 12th February. Sources: covid19data.com.au; Our World in Data; Johns Hopkins University Coronavirus Resource Center; Public Health Scotland; World Health Organization Western Pacific Region; Worldometer

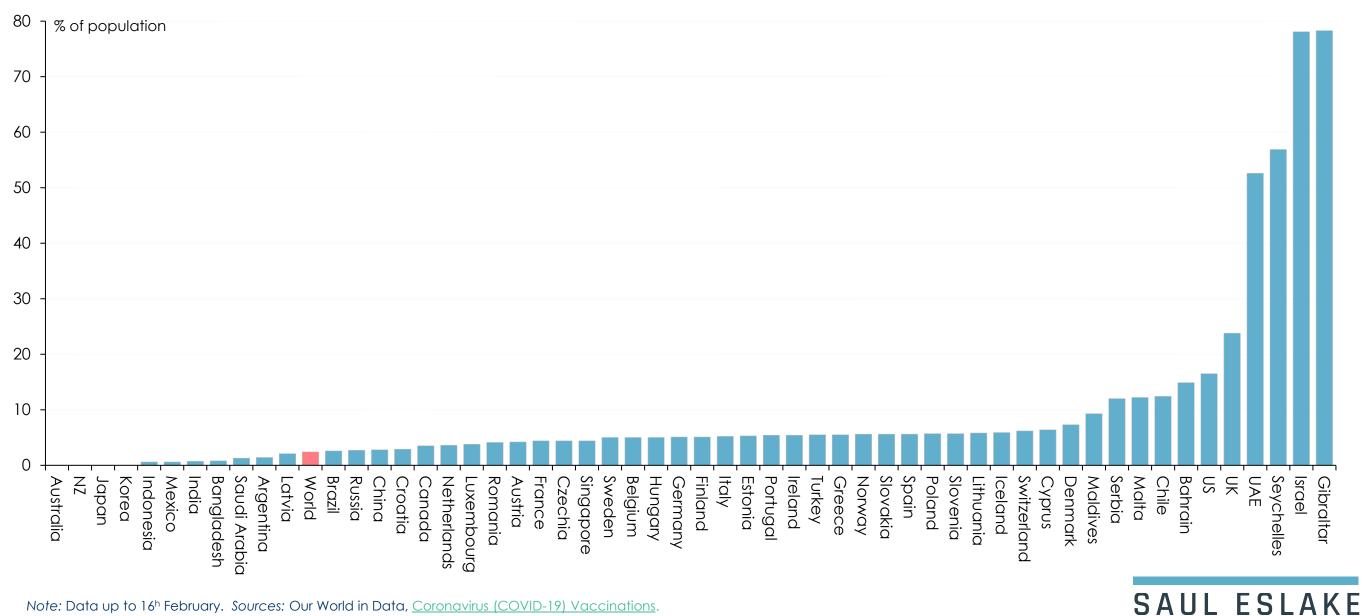
Effective vaccines will be crucial in allowing people and economies to return to 'normal' – if people are willing to take them



Sources: Ipsos Mori, <u>Attitudes to Covid-19 vaccines</u>, 25th January 2021; Ben Edwards, Nicholas Biddle, Matthew Gray & Kate Solis, <u>COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy and</u> resistance: Correlates in a nationally representative longitudinal survey of the Australian population, ANU Centre for Social Research and Methods, 16th November 2020.

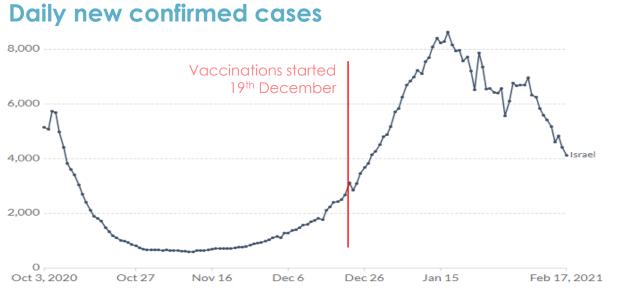
Israel has now vaccinated 78% of its population, the UK over 23%, the US almost 17%, but mainland Europe lagging behind and Asia even more so

Percentage of population vaccinated as at 16th February



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Israel's experience strongly suggests that Covid-19 vaccines are effective

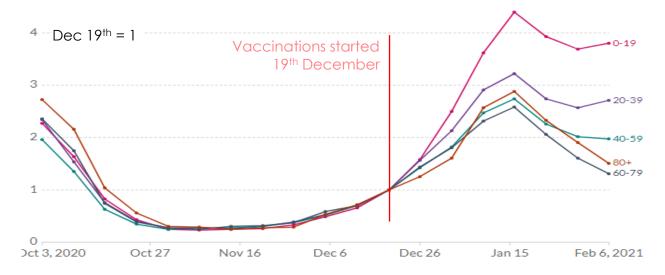


Hospitalizations for sever Covid-19 by age

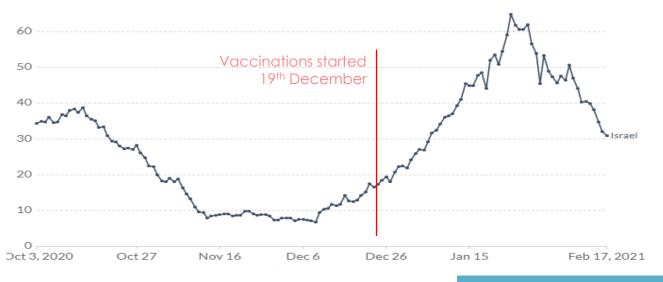
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Confirmed cases by age group

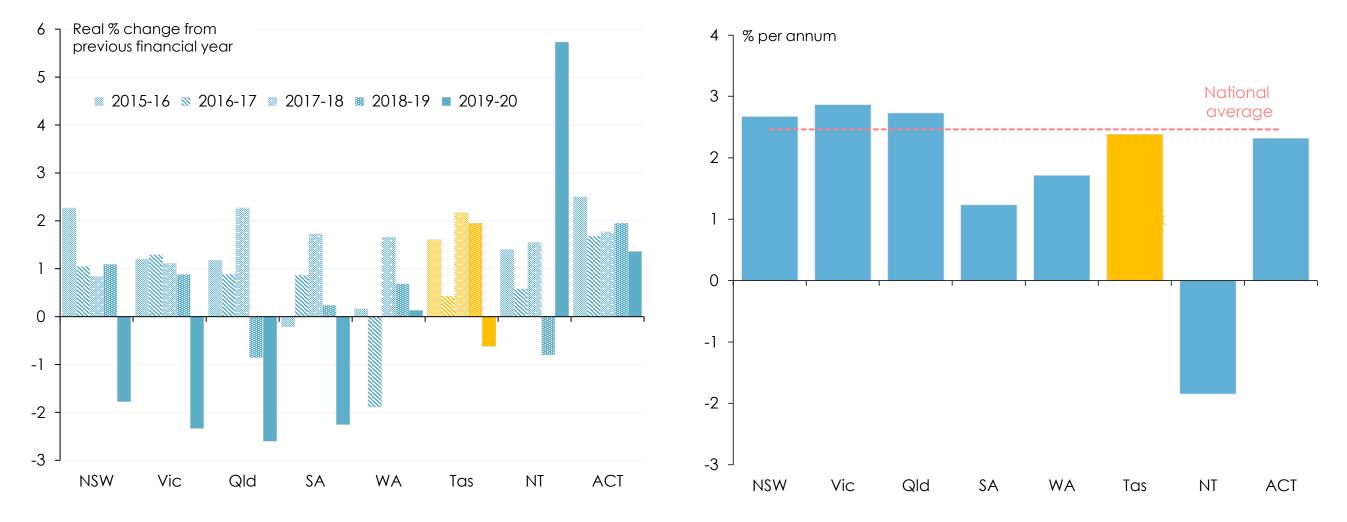


Confirmed Covid-19 deaths



Tasmania's economy was doing well in the years leading up to the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic

Growth in real gross state product, states and territories, 2015-16 to 2019-20

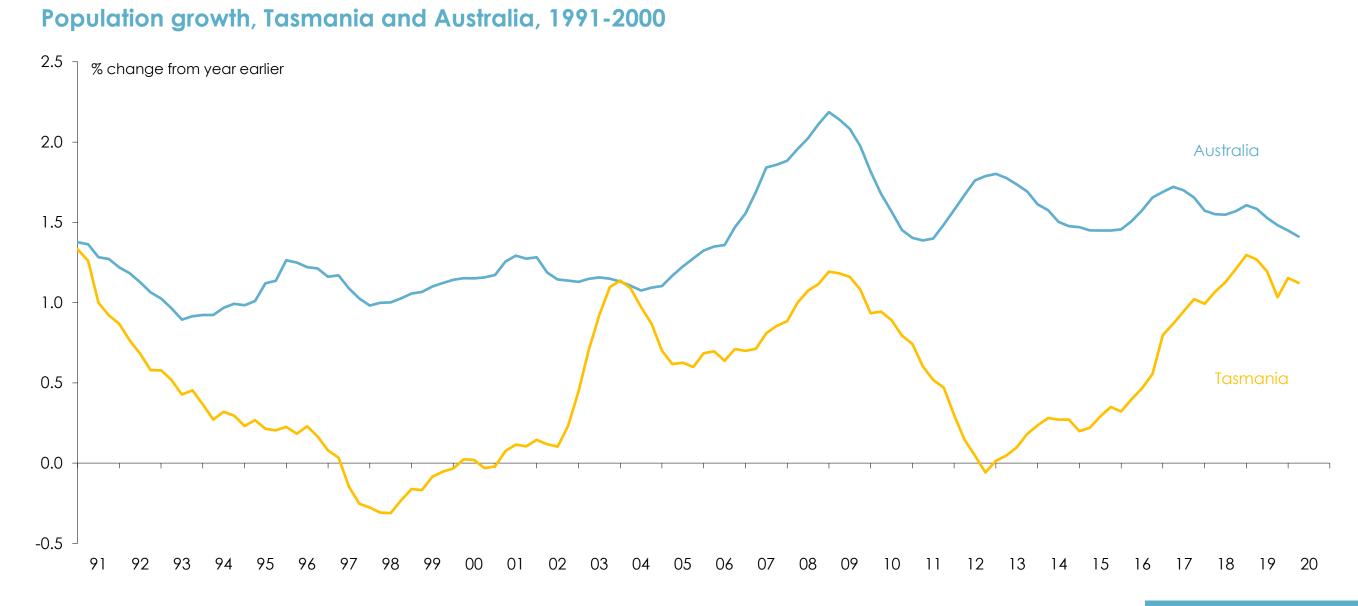


Note: The Northern Territory's growth rate in 2019-20 was inflated by a 40% increase in mining output, which was in turn largely attributable to the transition to full production of the Ichthys LNG plant. Excluding mining, the NT's real GSP declined by 4.2% in 2019-20. Source: ABS, <u>Australian National Accounts: State Accounts, 2019-20; Labour Force, Australia</u>.

Growth in employment, March quarter 2017 to March quarter 2020, states and territories

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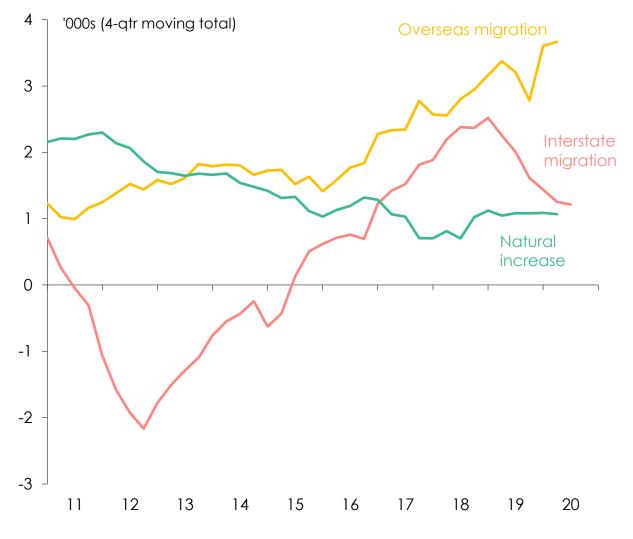
Tasmania's population was growing at its fastest rate in nearly 30 years



Source: ABS, National, state and territory population.

More people were moving to Tasmania from both the mainland and overseas, and fewer Tasmanians were leaving

Sources of growth in Tasmania's population, 2011-2020



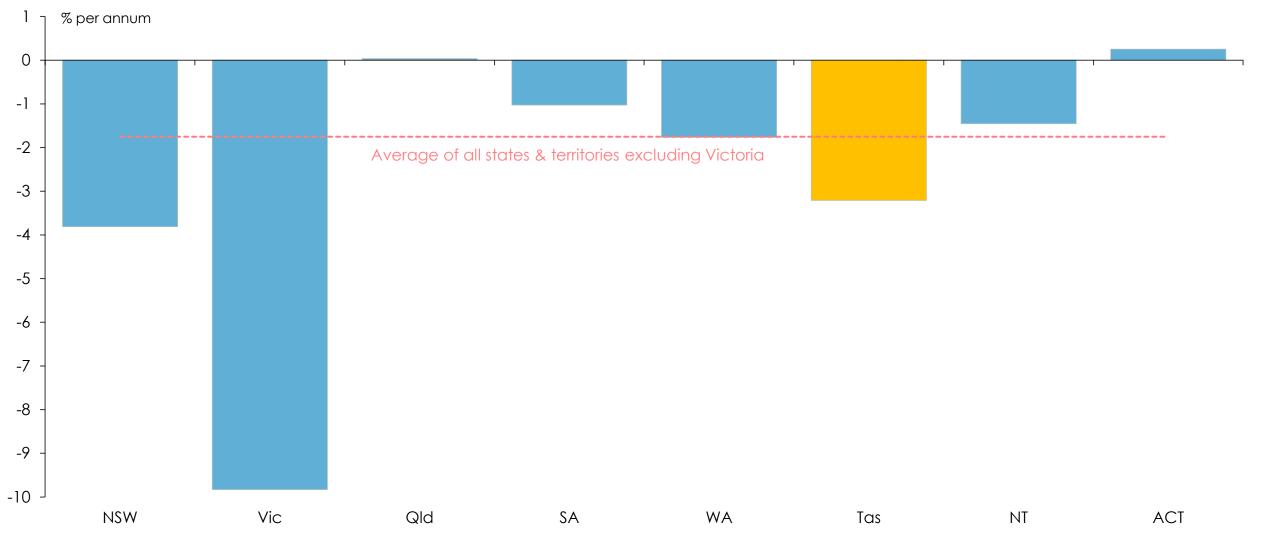
People movements across Bass Strait, 2011-2020



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Source: ABS, National, state and territory population.

Tasmania's economy turned down more than the national average during the 'Covid-19 recession'



Change in real state final demand from pre-Covid peak in 2019 to September quarter 2020

Note: 2019 'pre-Covid' peaks in state final demand were in the September quarter of 2019 in Victoria and Tasmania, and in the December quarter for other states and territories. State final demand actually peaked in South Australia in the December quarter of 2018, and the September quarter 2019 level of state final demand was 1.4% below that peak; state final demand in the Northern Territory actually peaked in the December quarter of 2012 (ie, almost eight years ago), and between then and the September quarter of 2020 fell by 28.2%. *Source:* ABS, <u>Australian National Accounts: National Income, Expenditure and Product</u>.



Tasmania's labour market experience has been tougher, in most respects, than anywhere else except Victoria and the Northern Territory



Employment, Tasmania and Australia

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-20

-40

14

NSW

Vic

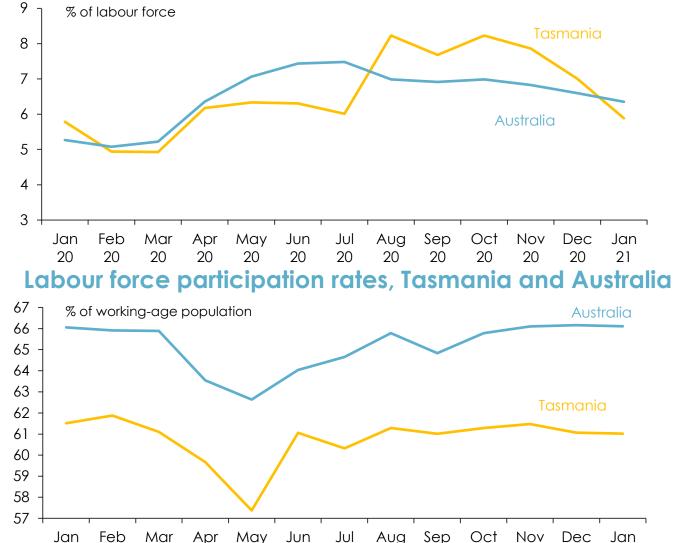
Qld

SA

WA

Tas

NT



20

20

20

20

20

20

Unemployment rates, Tasmania and Australia

.Note: February 2020 was the month in which employment peaked, in Australia and most states (including Tasmania) before the onset of Cocid-19. The labour force participation rate measures the proportion of the population aged 15 & over who are in work or 'actively' looking for it. Source: ABS, Labour Force, Australia.

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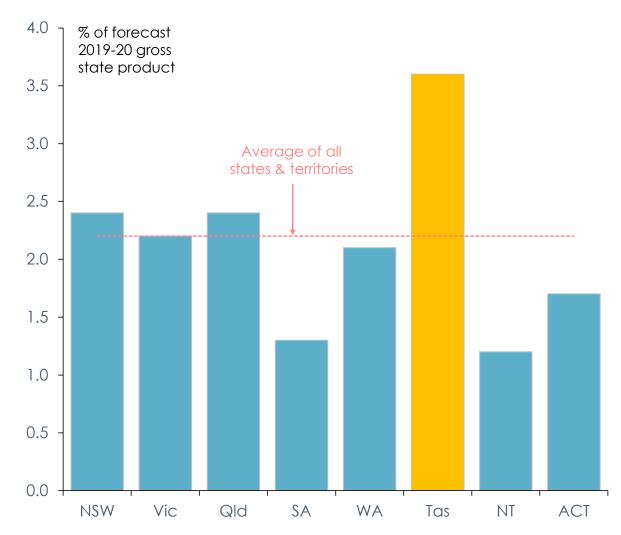
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The Tasmanian Government has been relatively more generous than other states and territories in supporting households and businesses

State & territory Covid-19 support and response measures as a pc of gross state product



15

Selected Tasmanian Government economic and social support measures

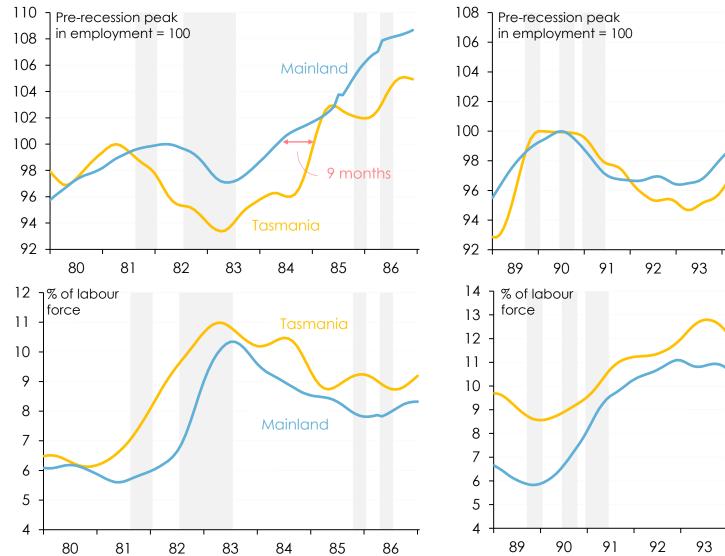
- □ Rent relief for 11,500 social housing tenants (cost ~ \$7mn)
- Ban on private rent increases until 30th June and 90-day moratorium on evictions
- □ \$513K for additional services to youth at risk of homelessness
- Payments totalling \$221K to 652 temporary visa holders
- □ School levy relief to 11,300 eligible parents (cost \$9mn)
- An additional \$2.2mn for programs supporting victims of family and domestic violence
- □ Waiver of 3 months' electricity water bills for around 34,000 small businesses (cost ~ \$50mn)
- Payroll tax relief for small businesses and employers in the hospitality, tourism and seafood industries (cost \$11½mn to date)
- □ Land tax waiver or deferral for commercial property owners impacted by restrictions or experiencing financial hardship
- Grants and interest free loans to small businesses
- Loans to Councils for infrastructure projects and rate relief (over \$110mn in loans applied for)
- □ Taxi licence fees waived for 2020-21 (cost \$240K)
- Subsidized training for 150 Tasmanians who have lost jobs



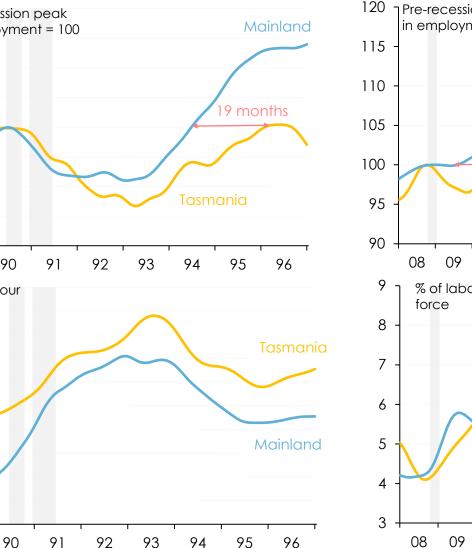
Tasmania has historically always fared worse than the mainland during recessions, regardless of how we were doing beforehand

Employment and unemployment in Tasmania vs the mainland during recessions

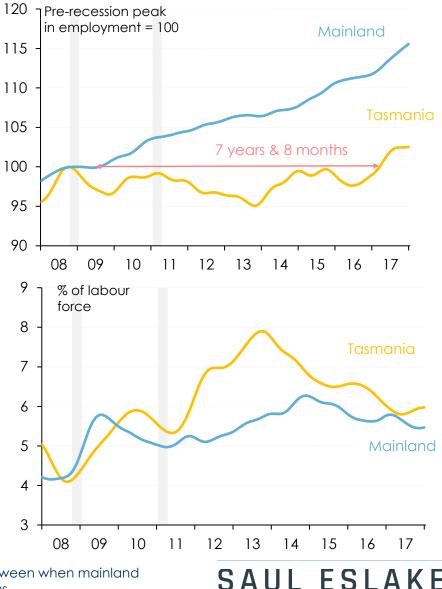
Early 1980s recession



Early 1990s recession



Global financial crisis



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Note: Shaded areas denote quarters of negative growth in real GDP. The number of years or months (in pink) are the time differences between when mainland employment regained its pre-recession peak level, and the same milestone being achieved in Tasmania. Data are expressed in trend terms. *Source:* ABS, *Labour Force, Australia*; Corinna.

Tasmania does have the opportunity to attract more migrants from both interstate and overseas, given the perception of being a 'safe place'

Federal Treasury Budget forecasts for net overseas and interstate migration

	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Net overseas migration, Australia	239,700	154,100	-71,600	-21,600	95,900	201,100

Table A.5: Net overseas migration, for years ending 30 June

Table A.6: Net interstate migration by state, for years ending 30 June

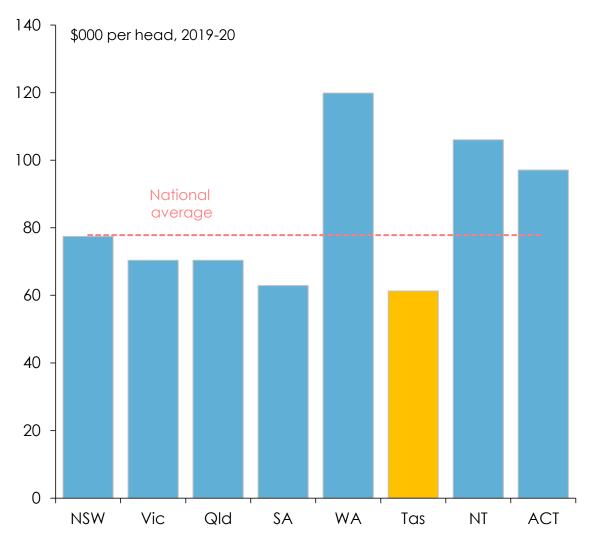
			-		-			
	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT
2018-19	-22,100	12,200	22,800	-6,500	-4,000	2,000	-200	-4,400
2019-20	-21,000	11,600	21,700	-6,100	-3,800	1,900	-200	-4,200
2020-21	-14,300	-1,200	22,000	-3,700	-2,200	2,200	300	-3,100
2021-22	-15,500	-1,300	23,800	-4,000	-2,300	2,300	400	-3,300
2022-23	-17,000	1,800	21,300	-2,300	-3,000	1,200	300	-2,400
2023-24	-18,600	5,000	18,900	-500	-3,600	0	200	-1,400

- but we will probably struggle to attract them unless we address the long-term structural weaknesses in our economy, and the substantial shortcomings in our education and health systems



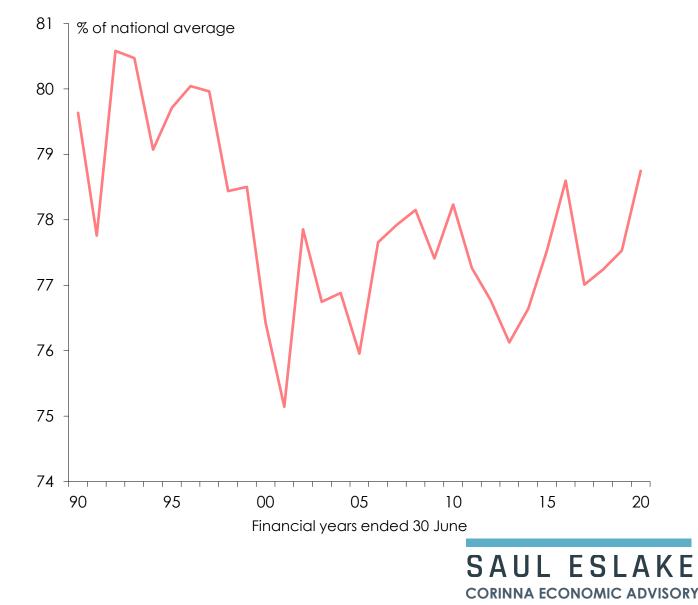
Tasmania remains Australia's poorest state despite some gradual improvement since the turn of the century

Per capita gross state product, states and territories, 2019-20



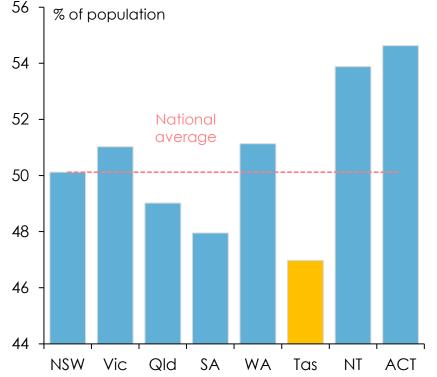
Source: ABS, Australian National Accounts: State Accounts, 2019-20.

Tasmanian per capita gross state product as a pc of the national average, 1989-90 to 2019-20



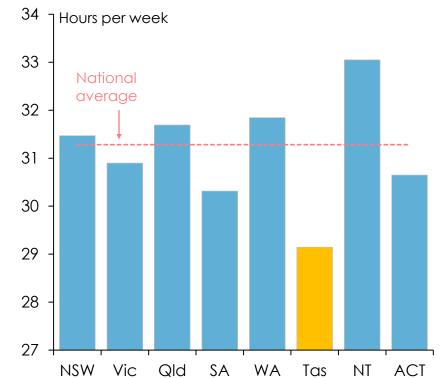
Tasmania's below-average per capita gross product reflects lower participation in employment, fewer hours worked and lower productivity





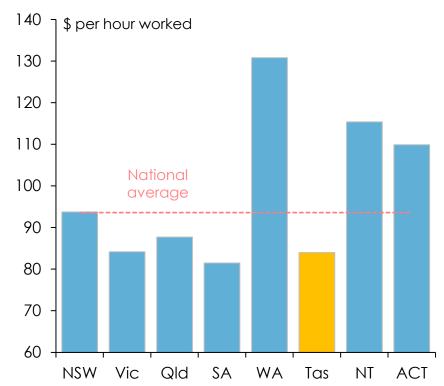
47% of Tasmanians have a job (cf. 50% of mainlanders) – which accounts for 36% of the difference between Tasmania's per capita GSP and the mainland's

Average hours worked, 2019-20



Tasmanians with jobs work 2.2 fewer hours per week than mainlanders – which accounts for 35% of the difference between Tasmania's per capita GSP and the mainland's

Output per hour worked (productivity), 2019-20

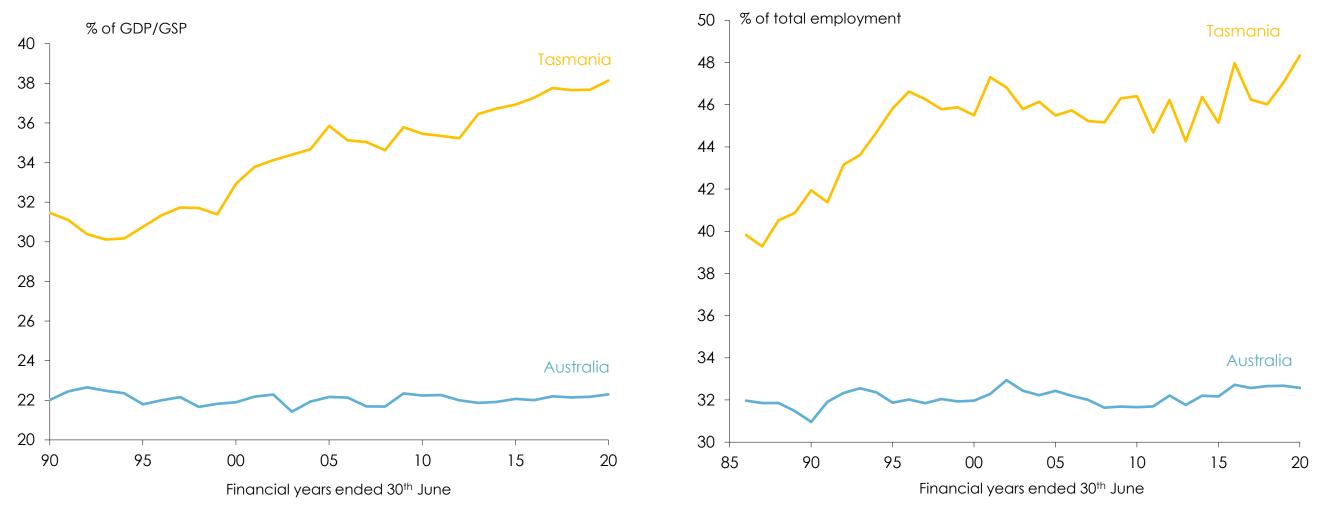


Tasmanians produce \$9.50 (10%) less for each hour they work than mainlanders – which accounts for 29% of the difference between Tasmania's per capita GSP and the mainland's



Tasmania's economy has always been more narrowly-based than that of the larger states – and has become more so over time

'Five sectors' shares of total employment



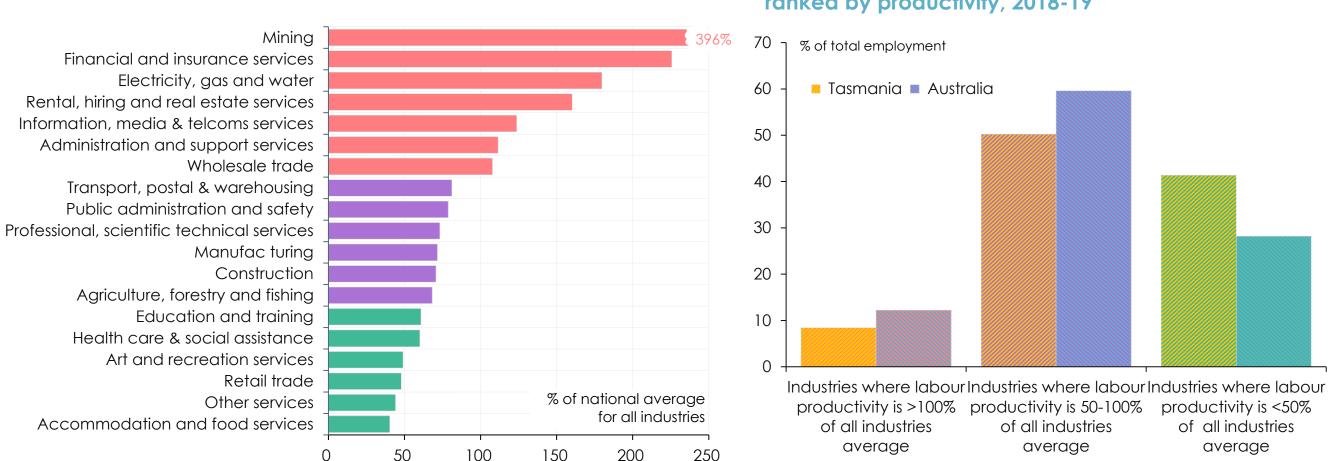
'Five sectors' shares of gross product

□ The 'five sectors' are agriculture, forestry and fishing; retail trade; accommodation and food services; public administration and safety; and health care and social assistance



Source: ABS, Australian National Accounts: State Accounts, 2019-20.

Relatively few Tasmanians work in intrinsically high-productivity industries, whereas a lot more work in low-productivity industries



Shares of total employment by industry groups ranked by productivity, 2018-19

Only $8\frac{1}{2}\%$ of Tasmanian workers are employed in industries where (nationally) labour productivity is higher than the allindustry average (cf. $12\frac{1}{2}\frac{1}{4}\%$ of Australian workers) – whereas 41% of Tasmanian workers are employed in industries where labour productivity is more than 50% below the all-industry average (cf. 28% of all Australian workers)

Note: 2018-19 data used in these charts because of Covid-19-related distortions to productivity measures in 2019-20. Source: ABS, <u>Australian National Accounts: State Accounts, 2019-20</u> and <u>Labour Force, Australia</u>.

21

Labour productivity by industry, Australia, 2018-19

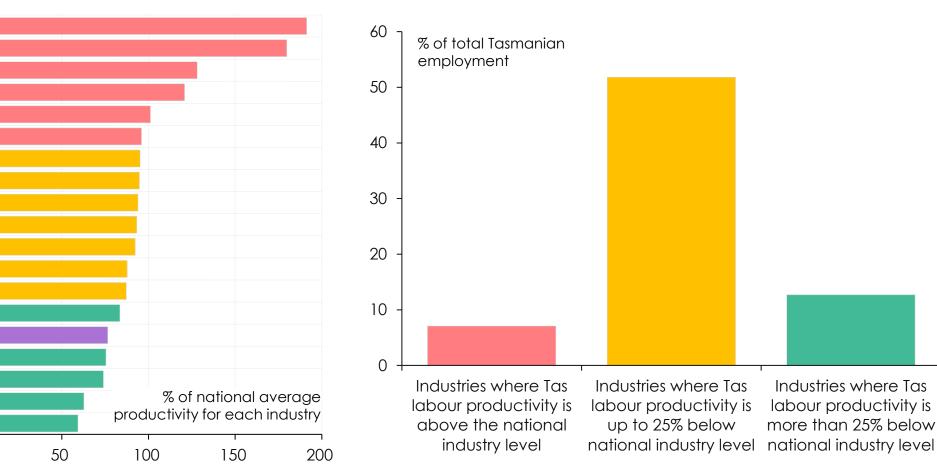


93% of Tasmanian workers are employed in industries where labour productivity is below the corresponding national industry average

Labour productivity in Tasmanian industries as a percentage of national average productivity in those industries, 2018-19

Agriculture, forestry and fishing Information, media & telcoms services Health care & social assistance Financial and insurance services Education and training Public administration and safety Electricity, gas and water Transport, postal & warehousing Retail trade Manufac turing Wholesale trade Other services Construction Accommodation and food services Total Art and recreation services Administration and support services Professional, scientific technical services Rental, hiring and real estate services

22

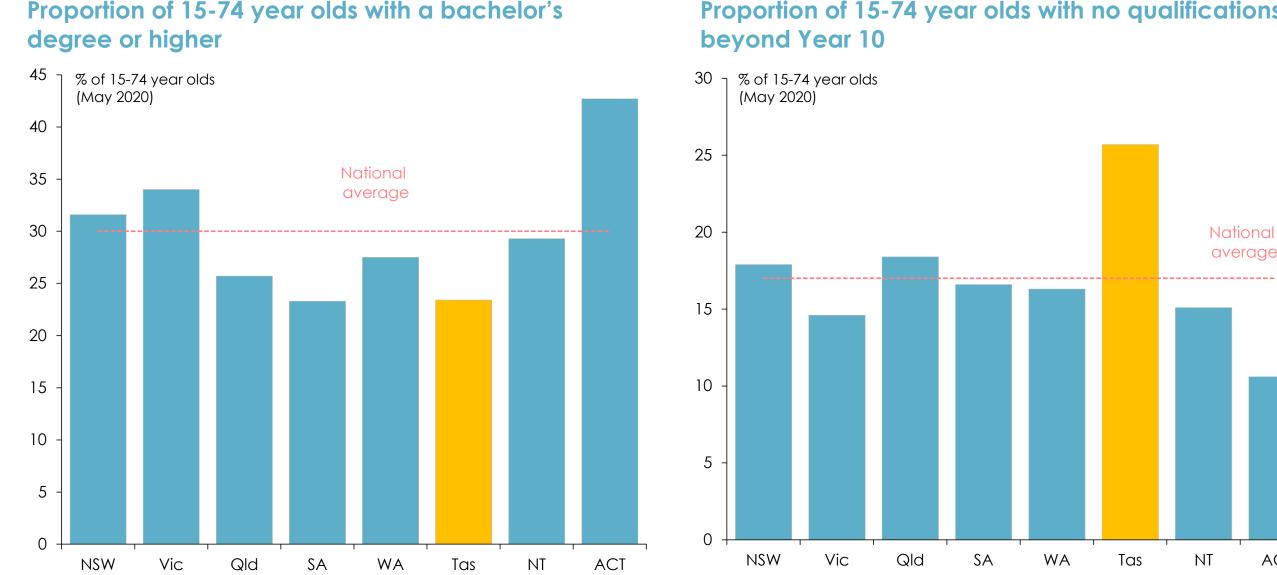


Shares of total employment in Tasmania by industries ranked by productivity as pc of national average, 2018-19

Only 7% of Tasmanian workers are employed in industries where their productivity is higher than the corresponding national averages for those industries – whereas 52% of Tasmanian workers work in industries where their productivity is up to 25% below the corresponding national average, and 13% where their productivity is more than 25% below the national average

Note: 2018-19 data used in these charts because of Covid-19-related distortions to productivity measures in 2019-20. Source: ABS, <u>Australian National Accounts: State Accounts, 2019-20</u> and <u>Labour Force, Australia</u>.

To attract families to live in Tasmania we need to improve our educational outcomes (which we should also want to do for the families already here)



Proportion of 15-74 year olds with no qualifications

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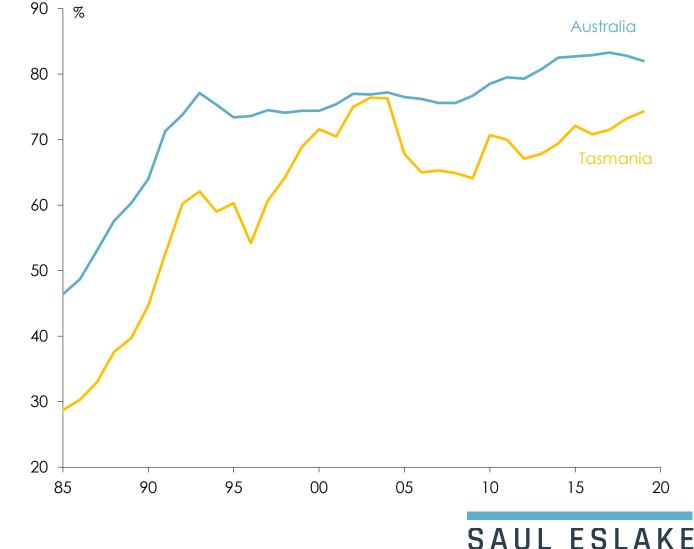
Source: ABS, Education and Work, Australia.

Although there's been improvement over the past five years we still have the lowest Year 12 retention rates in Australia (apart from the NT)





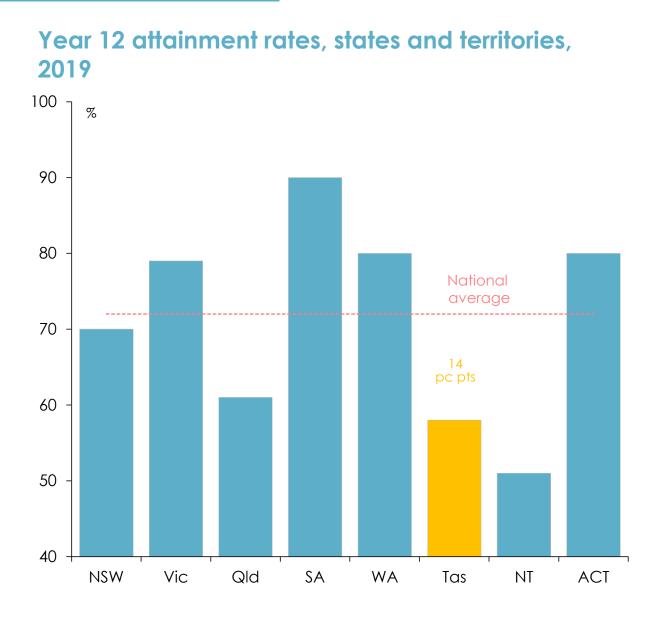
School retention rates from Year 10 to Year 12, Tasmania and Australia, 1985-2019



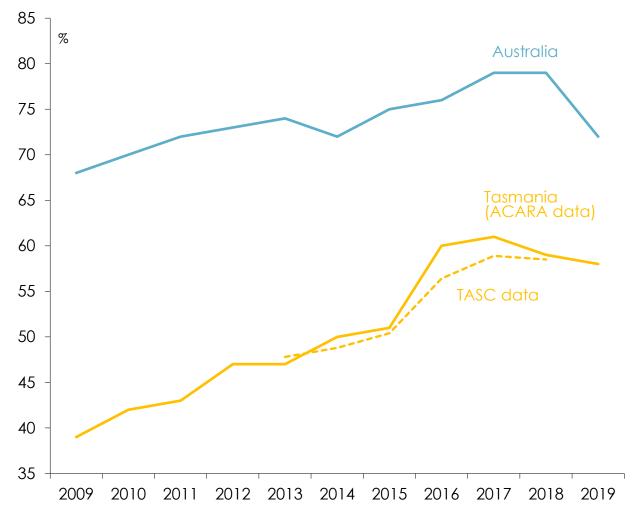
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Source: ABS, <u>Schools</u>.

Tasmania's Year 12 <u>attainment</u> rates are still the lowest in Australia (apart from the NT) and have appear to have declined since 2017



Year 12 attainment rates, Tasmania and Australia, 2009-2019



Note: the attainment rate is the proportion of the potential Year 12 population who meet the requirements of a Year 12 certificate. Sources: Productivity Commission <u>Report on Government Services 2021 - School Education</u>, February 2021; Office of Tasmanian Assessment, Standards and Certification (TASC), <u>TCE Statistics</u>. TASC data for 2019 are <u>still</u> not available.

Tasmania's poor Y12 attainment rates are <u>not</u> due to Tasmania having an above-average share of students from disadvantaged backgrounds

Year 12 attainment rates by socio-economic status, 2019



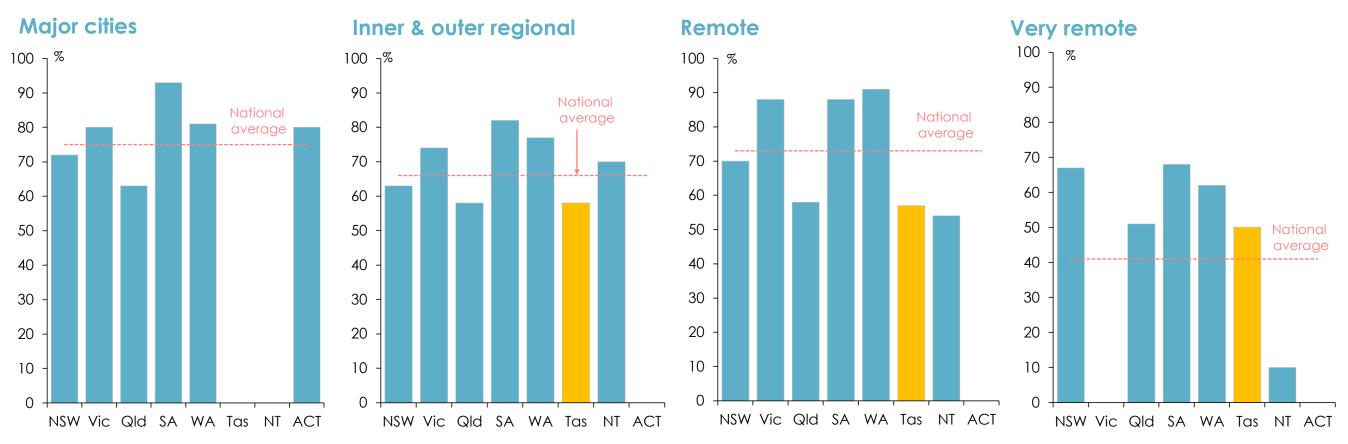
- A student from a high SES household in Tasmania is not only less likely to get a Y12 certificate than one from a similar background in any other state or territory (except Queensland), but also less likely to do so than a student from a medium SES household in three other states or the ACT, and less likely even than a student from a low SES household in Victoria, SA or WA
- A student from a medium SES household in Tasmania is less likely to get a Y12 certificate than a student from a low SES household in any other state except Queensland



Source: Productivity Commission <u>Report on Government Services 2021 - School Education</u>, February 2021.

Nor are Tasmania's below-average Y12 attainment rates the product of having an above-average proportion of students living outside big cities

Year 12 attainment rates by remoteness, 2019

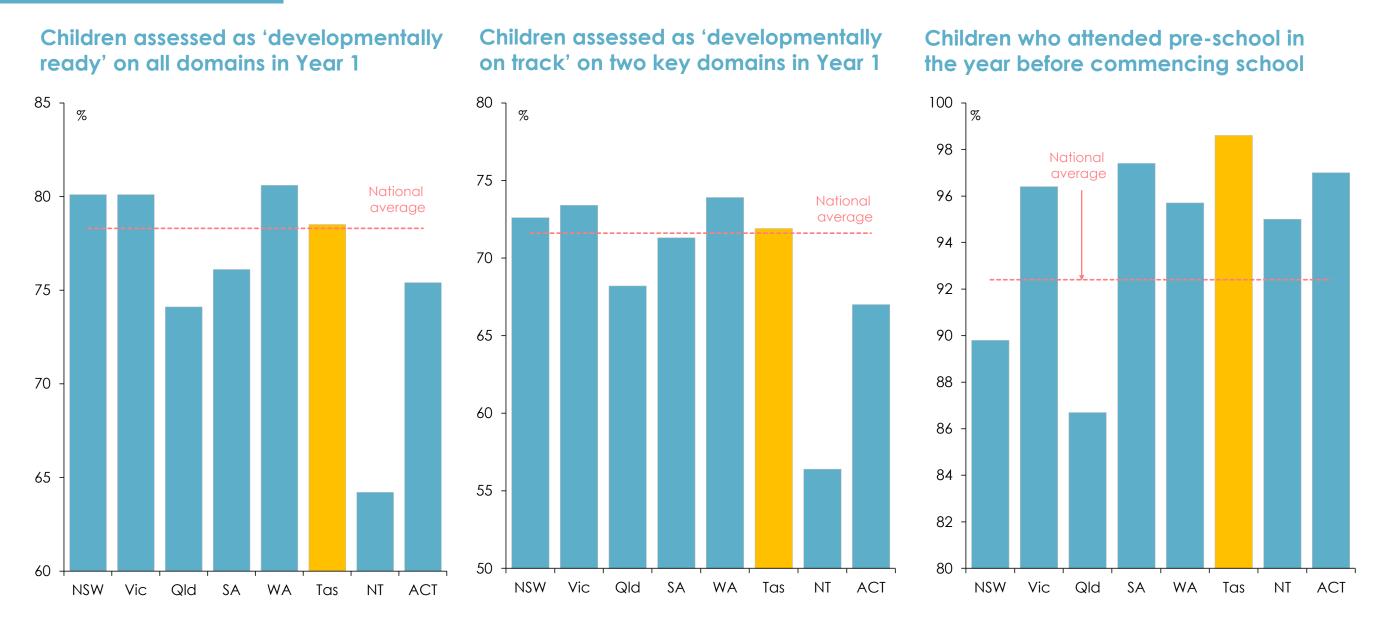


- A student from Hobart is less likely to attain a TCE than one from 'inner & outer regional', 'remote' or even 'very remote' areas of NSW, Victoria, SA or WA let alone from any of the 'major cities' is to attain the equivalent qualification
- □ A student from a 'remote' area of Tasmania is less likely to attain a TCE than one from a 'remote' area of any other state to attain the equivalent qualification

Note: 'Remoteness' classification is based on the 2017 Australian Statistical Geography Standard, under which Canberra is considered a 'major city' but Hobart isn't (go figure!). There are no 'very remote' areas in Victoria, no 'remote' or 'very remote' areas in the ACT. Source: Productivity Commission <u>Report on Government</u> <u>Services 2021 - School Education</u>.



Tasmanian children <u>don't</u> enter the education system with any greater disadvantage or difficulty than children in other states or territories ...



Note: The 'assessments' in the first two charts are from the <u>Australian Early Development Census</u> (a tri-ennial national data collection process in which teachers are asked to describe the developmental level of each child in his or her first year of school, reported across five domains. The 'two key domains' referred to in the middle chart are 'language & cognitive skills' and 'communication skills & general knowledge'. Data for all three charts is for 2018.

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Source: The Mitchell Institute, Educational Opportunity in Australia 2020.

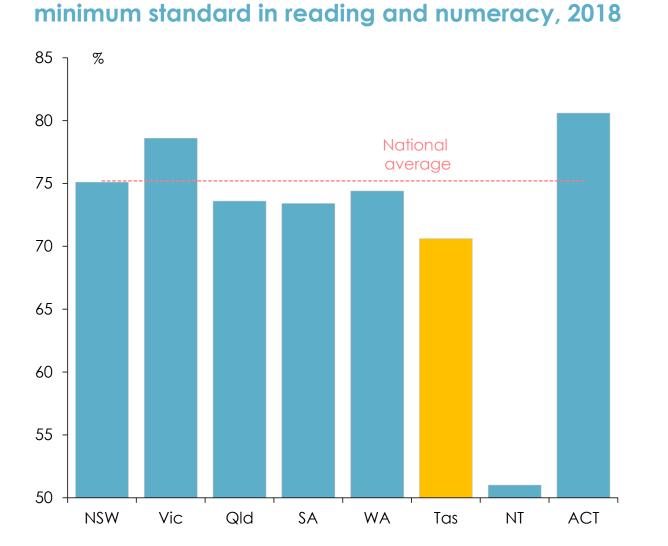
... but by the time they get to Year 10 Tasmanian students are well behind their peers in other states and the ACT across multiple dimensions

Mathematics Reading Science 35 35 30 % % % 30 30 National 25 National National average average average 25 25 20 20 20 15 15 15 10 10 10 5 5 5 0 \cap NSW Vic Qld SA WA Tas NSW Vic Qld SA WA Tas NT ACT NT ACT Vic Qld NSW SA WA Tas NT ACT

Percentage of students with below-standard achievements at age 15, states and territories, 2018

Source: The Mitchell Institute, Educational Opportunity in Australia 2020.

The longer Tasmanian students are in the education system the further they fall behind their interstate peers on ICT literacy benchmarks



30

Pc of Year 7 students achieving above national

Pc of Year 10 students attaining minimum standard of ICT literacy, 2017



Note: the 'minimum standard' for ICT literacy calls for the ability to 'generate well-targeted searches for electronic information sources and select relevant information from within sources to meet a specific purpose. They create information products with simple linear structures and use software commands to edit and reformat information products in ways that demonstrate some consideration of audience and communicative purpose' and for the capacity to 'recognize situations in which ICT misuse may occur and explain how specific protocols can prevent this'. Source: The Mitchell Institute, Educational Opportunity in Australia 2020.

The three big flaws in Tasmania's education system

Tasmania has 'too many' small schools

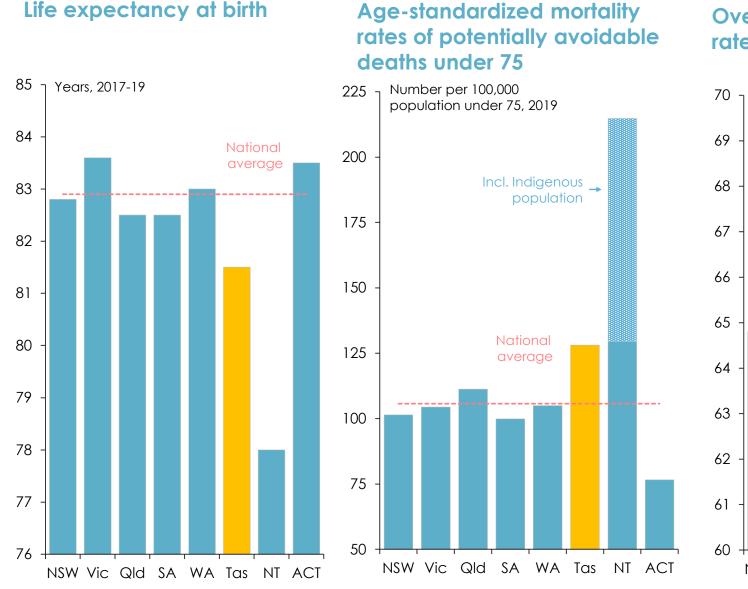
- Tasmanian government primary schools have 267 FTE students, on average (in 2019) cf. the mainland average of 335, while government secondary schools have 638 FTE students on average cf. the mainland average of 893
- this is the main reason the Tasmanian system spends proportionately per student more on non-scalable 'fixed costs' (principals, clerical-admin and maintenance staff)
- there's no evidence that small schools produce better educational outcomes than larger ones
- it shouldn't be the function of the education budget to prop up otherwise non-viable communities (that's prioritizing the desires of adults above the needs of children

□ Tasmania's school curriculum is excessively influenced by 'fads' imported from Victoria

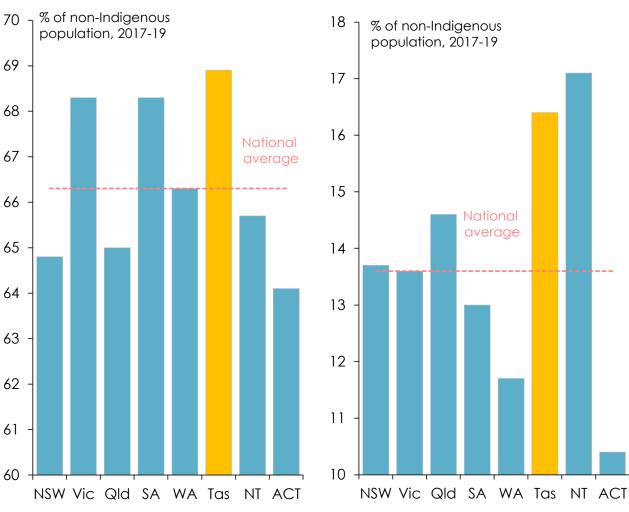
- such as 'whole language' instruction rather than phonics in early primary school years
- Tasmania's system of separate colleges for Year 11 and 12 acts as a barrier to retention beyond Year 10, especially for students from households with no tradition or 'lived experience' of senior secondary or tertiary education
 - unlike students in every other jurisdiction except the ACT, Tasmanian students traditionally haven't been able to finish Year 12 where they start Year 7 ...
 - ... and they aren't able to see, every day, 'big kids' doing Year 11 and 12 ("you can't be what you can't see"0
 - students who have reached Year 10 with the support of teachers and other staff who have had four years in which to get to know their strengths and weaknesses then typically have to abandon those relationships and start anew, with teachers and other staff who will only have two years with them
 - while the present Government has extended Y11 and 12 courses to all high schools, the more talented and motivated students are still opting for the colleges, (unintentionally) undermining the intent of 'extension courses'
 - if Tasmania's system is so good, how come no other jurisdiction (except the ACT) has copied it?
 - and the ACT is <u>so</u> different from Tasmania it might as well be on Mars for all that its experience is relevant to Tasmania's



Tasmanians typically experience poorer health than other Australians (with the conspicuous exception of Indigenous Australians) ...



Overweight or obesity rates for adults



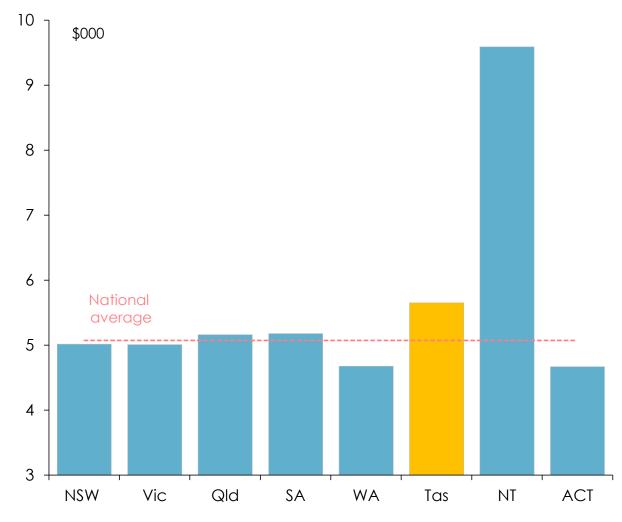
Daily smokers

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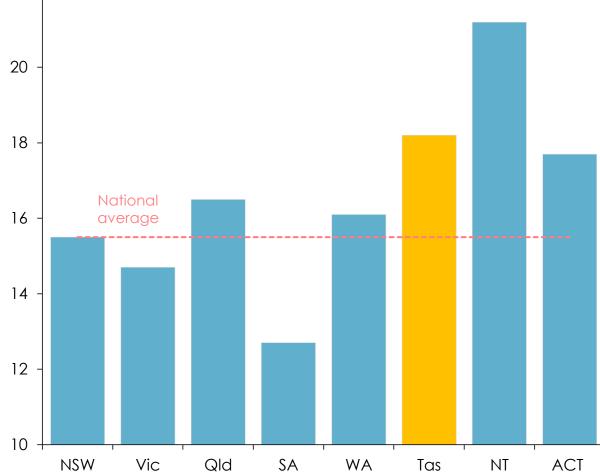
Source: Productivity Commission Report on Government Services 2021 - Health, January 2021.

... even though Tasmania spends more on public hospitals, and has more public hospital staff, per person than any other jurisdiction except the NT

State and Territory government recurrent expenditure per person on public hospitals, 2018-19



FTE public hospital staff per 1,000 population, states and territories, 2018-19

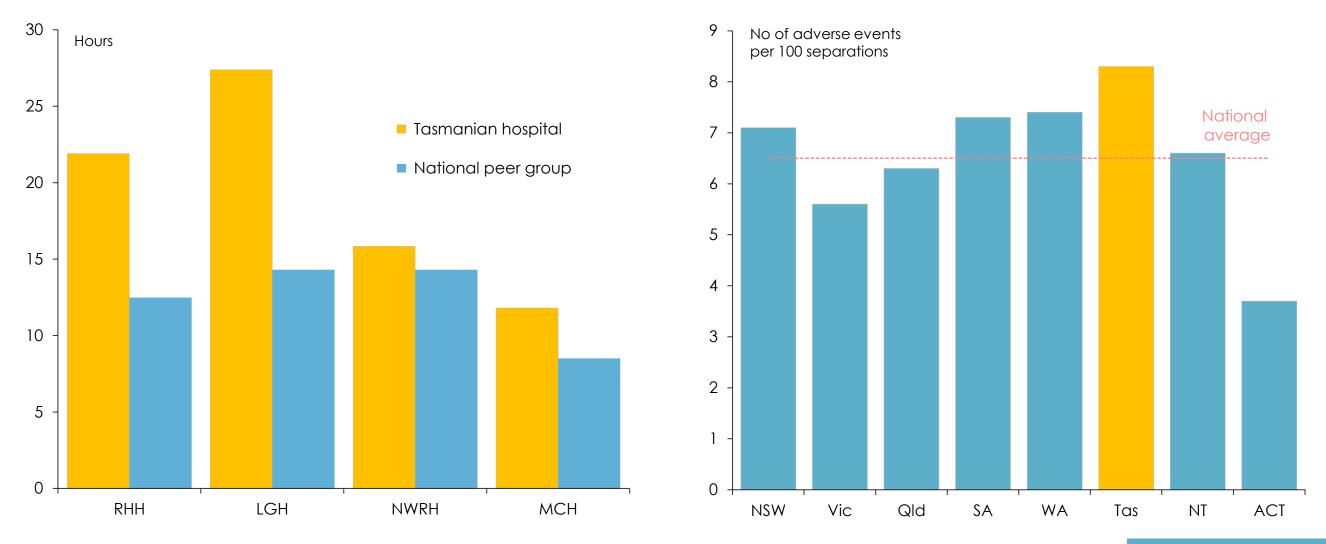


22 $_{ m 7}$ FTE per 1,000 population

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However despite spending relatively more and having more staff, Tasmania's hospital system performs poorly compared with other states

Emergency Department waiting times for patients needing admission at 90th percentile, 2018-19



Note: 'ED waiting times for patients at the 90th percentile' means the average time within which 90% of patients are admitted to a ward – the remaining 10% have to wait longer than this. Sources: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, <u>Australia's hospitals at a glance 2018-19</u>; Martyn Goddard, State of Health 2020.

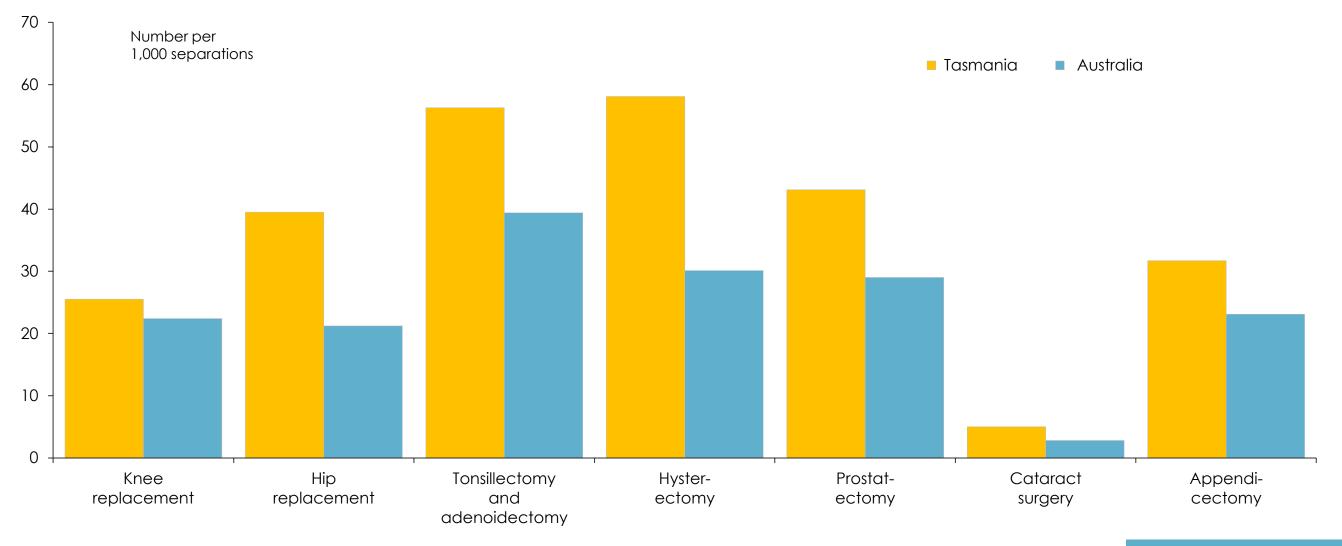
Hospital separations with an adverse event per 100 separations, 2017-18

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Tasmania's public hospital system makes proportionately more 'mistakes' than the hospital systems of other states and territories

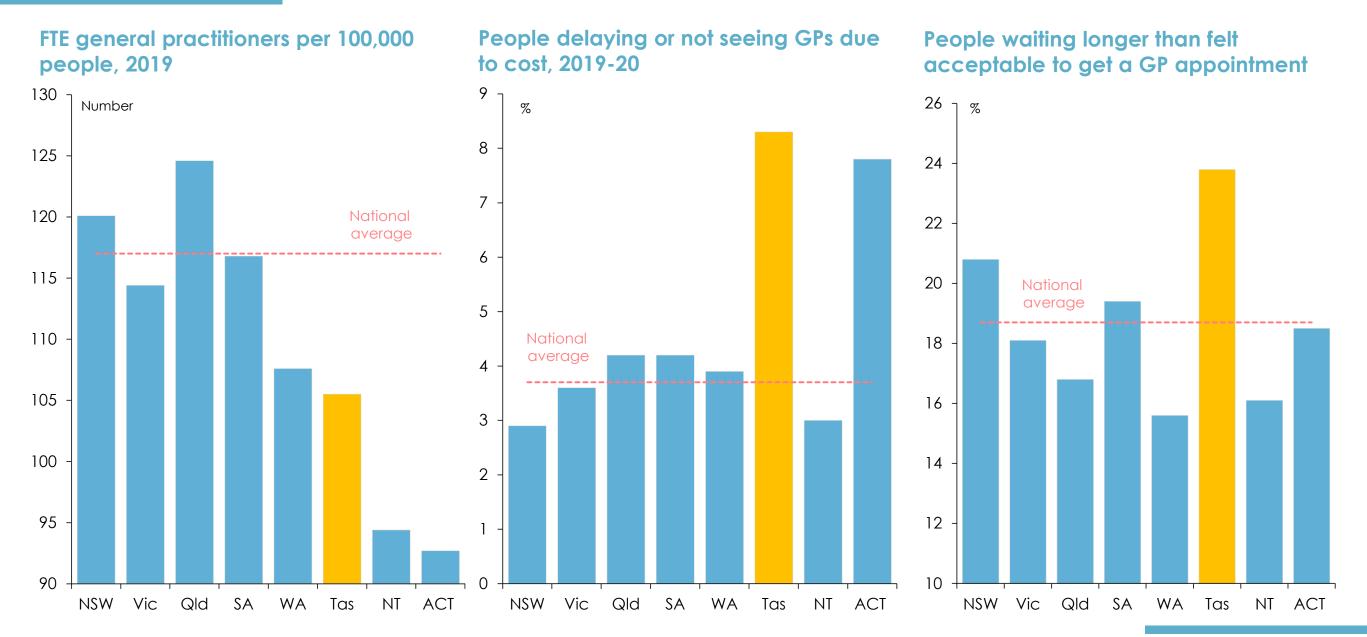
Unplanned hospital re-admission rates by selected surgical procedure prior to separation, Tasmania and Australia, 2018-19



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Source: Productivity Commission, <u>Report on Government Services 2021 - Health: Public Hospitals</u>, January 2021.

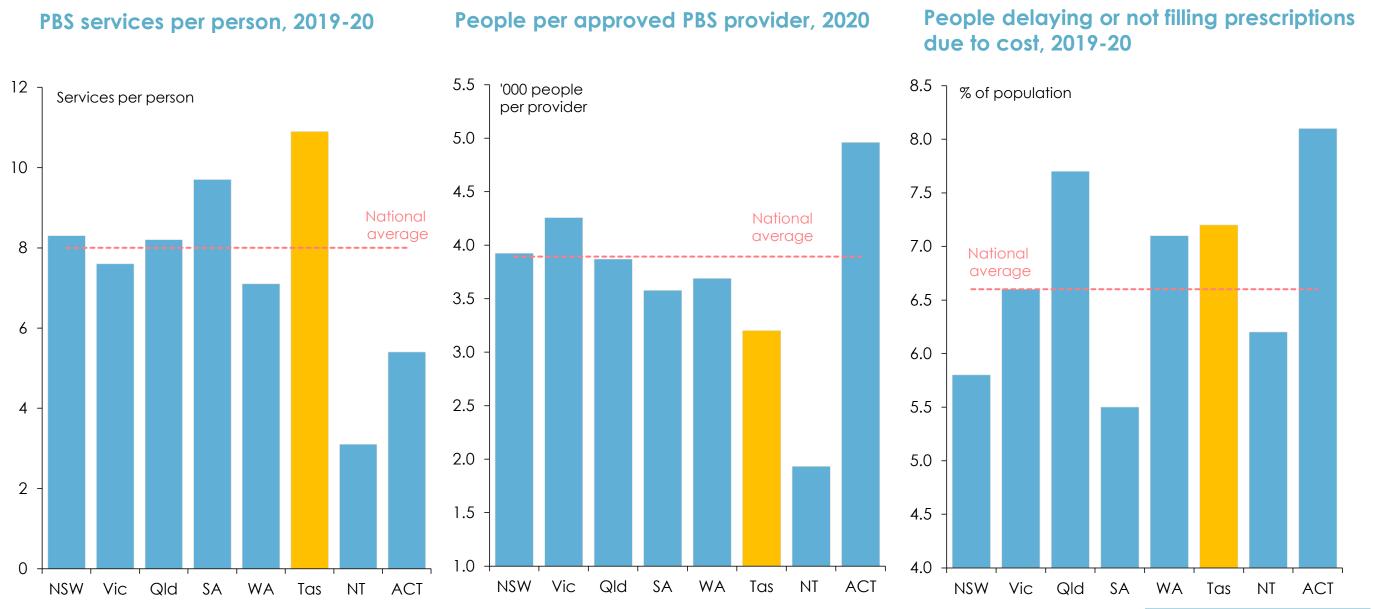
Tasmanians have greater difficulty than other Australians accessing GPs



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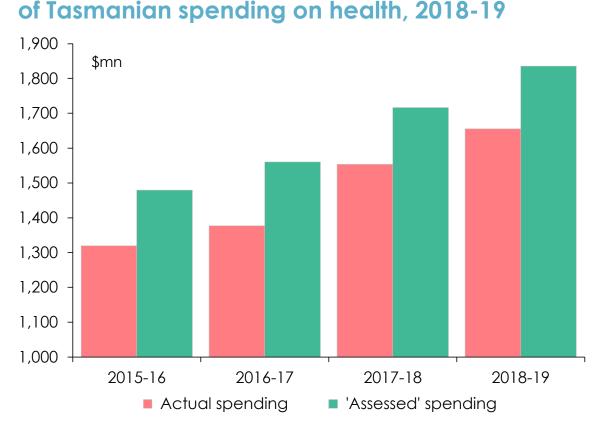
Source: Productivity Commission, <u>Report on Government Services 2021 - Health: Public Hospitals</u>, January 2021.

Tasmanians have greater difficulty than other Australians accessing GPs



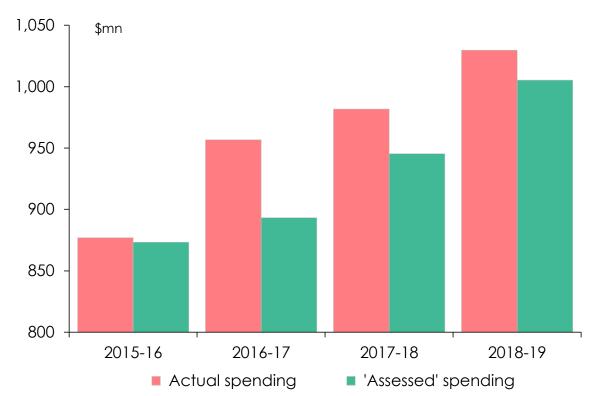
Source: Productivity Commission, Report on Government Services 2021 - Health: Primary and community health, January 2021.

Tasmania almost certainly needs to spend more on health (unlike schools, where it needs to spend what it spends differently)



Commonwealth Grants Commission's assessment

The Grants Commission reckons Tasmania has spent an average of \$172mn ($10\frac{1}{2}$ %) per annum <u>less</u> on health than needed to provide the same "standard of services" as the average of all states and territories Commonwealth Grants Commission's assessment of Tasmanian spending on schools, 2018-19



The Grants Commission reckons Tasmania has spent an average of 32mn (31/2) per annum <u>more</u> on schools than needed to provide the same "standard of services" as the average of all states and territories

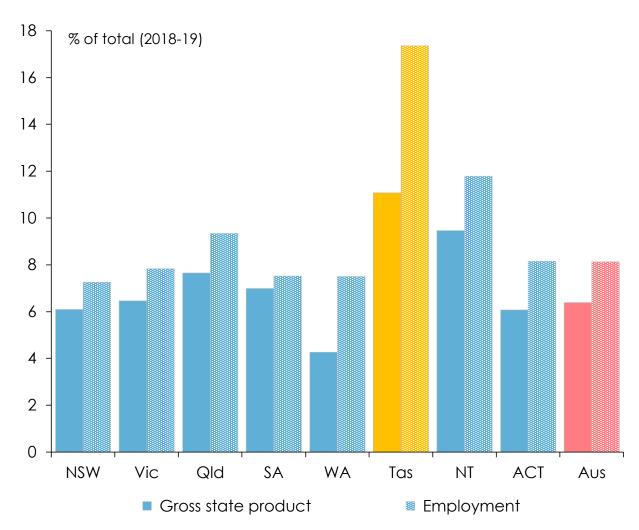
Note: The Grants Commission's "assessed spending" is the level of expenditure on a particular service which it assesses as being required in a state or territory in order to provide the same standard of that service as the average of all states and territories, after taking into account differences in the need or demand for that service and in the unit cost of providing it, between that state or territory and the average of all. These assessments (and similar assessments for revenue-raising) form the basis for the Commission's determination of GST revenue-sharing relativities.



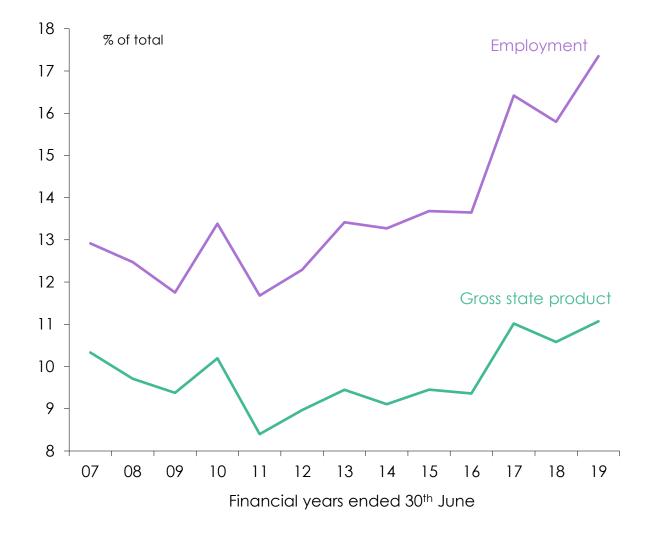
38 Source: Commonwealth Grants Commission, 2020 Review [of GST revenue-sharing relativities], March 2020.

Have we (inadvertently) become 'too dependent' on tourism for the post-Covid world?

Tourism shares of gross state product and employment, states and territories, 2018-19

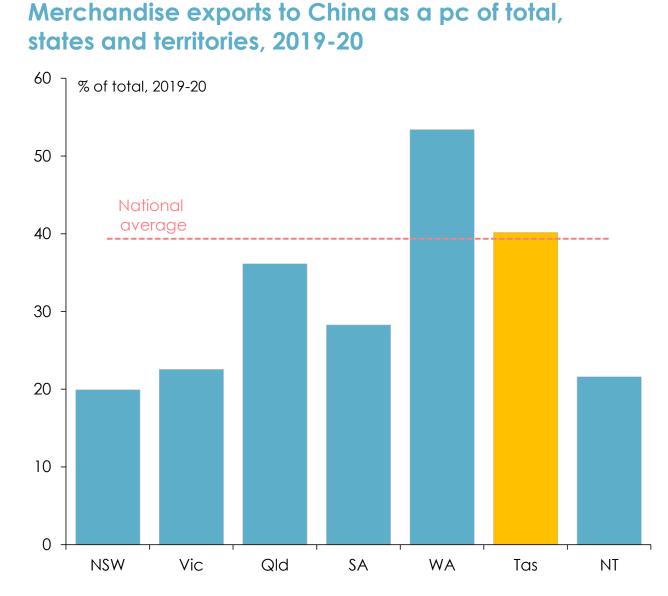


Tourism shares of Tasmanian gross state product and employment, 2006-07 to 2018-19

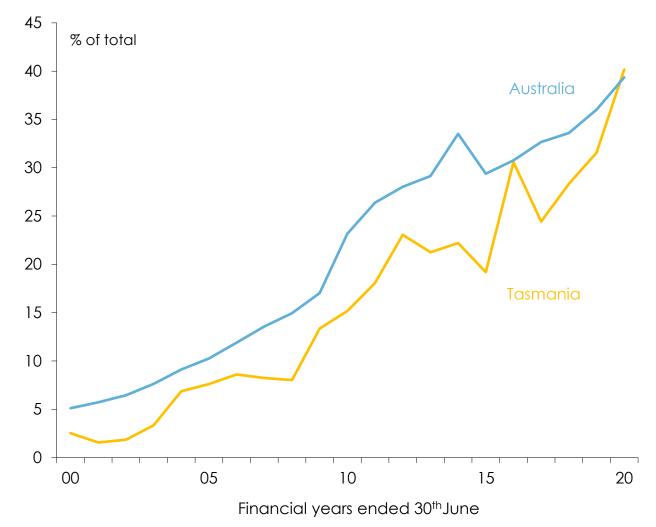




Have we (inadvertently) become 'too reliant' on China as an export market given the deterioration in bilateral political relations?



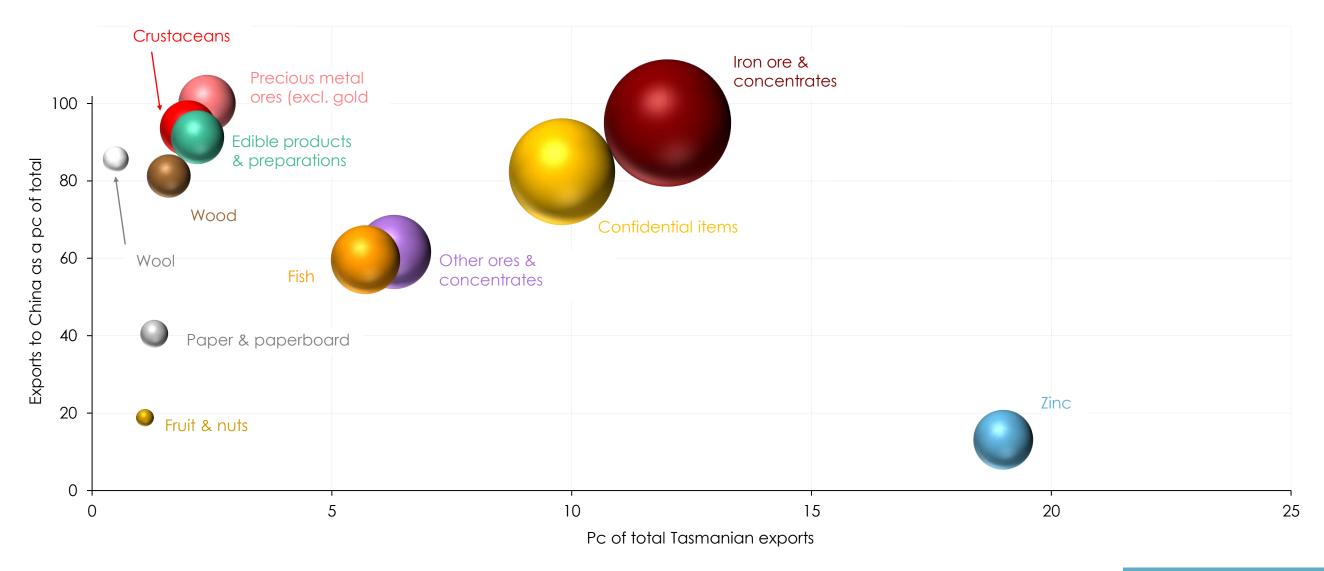
Merchandise exports to China as a pc of total, Tasmania and Australia, 1999-2000 to 2019-20



Source: ABS, International Trade in Goods and Services, Australia.

Many of Tasmania's major exports are vulnerable to Chinese trade sanctions

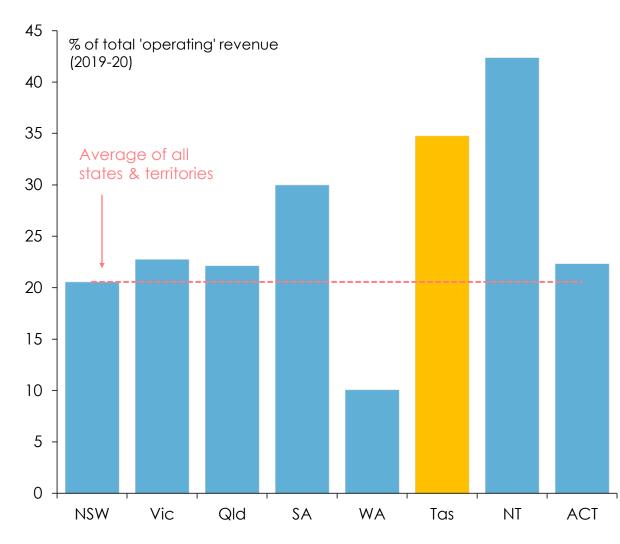




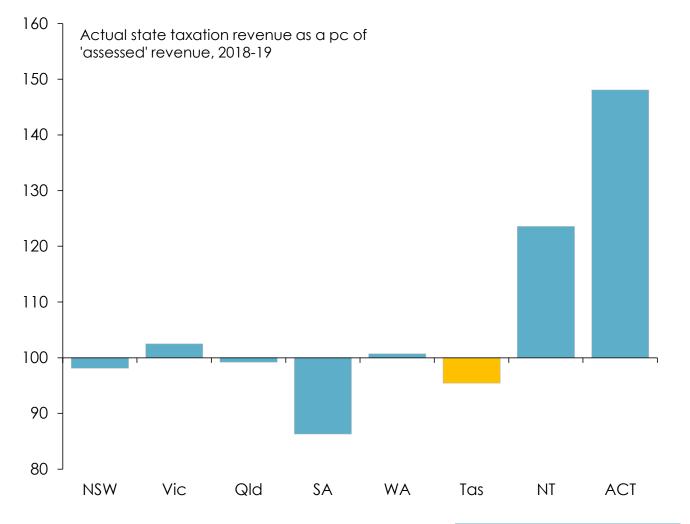
Note: The size of the 'bubbles' shown in this chart indicates the dollar value of exports of the items in 2019-20. Source: Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, <u>Trade statistical pivot tables.</u>

Are we unwittingly putting our future capacity to fund services at risk by relying so heavily on our share of revenue from the GST?

GST revenue as a proportion of total revenue, states and territories, 2019-20



State taxation revenue as a pc of Grants Commission 'assessed revenue', states and territories, 2018-19



Note: 'assessed revenue' is the revenue which the Commonwealth Grants Commission estimates would be raised by each state and territory if its tax regime were of the same 'severity' (rates and base) as the average of all states and territories. The figure for the ACT is biassed upwards because it includes municipal-type revenues such as rates. *Sources*: Federal, state and territory 2020-21 Budget Papers; Commonwealth Grants Commission <u>2020 Review</u>.

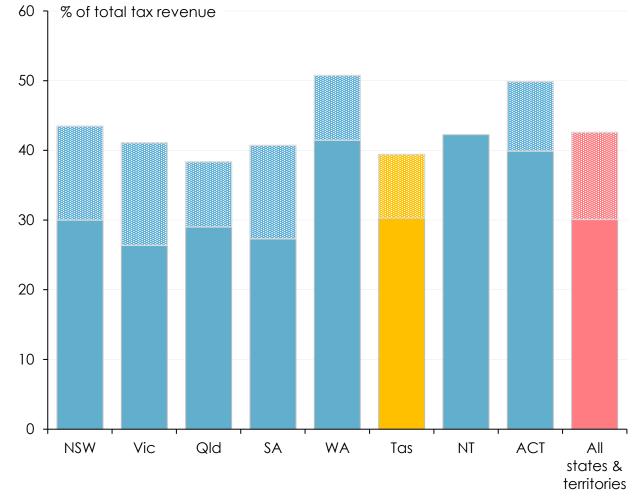
Reform of Tasmania's tax system could improve both 'efficiency' (reducing distortions) and 'equity' (reducing unfairness)

Revenue from 'bad' state taxes as a pc of total state taxation revenue, 2018-19



Conveyance duty Insurance taxes

Revenue from 'good' state taxes as a pc of total state taxation revenue, 2018-19



Payroll tax III Land tax



Sources: ABS, Taxation Revenue Australia; Corinna.

% of total tax revenue

This document has been prepared by Saul Eslake on behalf of Corinna Economic Advisory Pty Ltd, ABN 165 668 058 69, whose registered office is located at Level 11, 114 William Street, Melbourne, Victoria 3000 Australia.

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