

**Media Release, 14 October 2024**

## **Budget underwhelms**

The recent State Budget has underwhelmed Tasmanian voters, according to an exclusive poll undertaken by Enterprise Marketing and Research Services (EMRS).

The statewide poll of 500 Tasmanians found that nearly half of all respondents (45 per cent) thought that the budget was bad for Tasmania, compared to just over a fifth (22 per cent) who thought it was good.

When asked whether the budget would leave them better or worse off, a total of 38 per cent indicated that it would leave them worse off, compared to just six per cent better off.

Respondents were also asked how they felt key issues were addressed in the budget:

COST OF LIVING: 63% total unsatisfied, 11% total satisfied.

HEALTH: 61% total unsatisfied, 21% satisfied

HOUSING: 61% total unsatisfied, 16% satisfied

DEBT: 62% total unsatisfied, 11% satisfied

Asked to nominate three (unprompted) words to best describe the budget, the most common responses were “debt” (44 times), “irresponsible” (43) and “poor” (28).

The poll also asked respondents their current state voting intention, finding 28 per cent Liberal support, 26 per cent Labor, 17 per cent Green, 5 per cent JLN, 1 per cent another minor party, and 8 per cent unsure/prefer not to say.

“The recent state budget was clearly very unpopular with voters, with nearly half of all respondents saying that they believe the budget is bad for Tasmania”, EMRS Acting General Manager Ken Drake said.

“It is notable that the word most associated with the budget is “debt”, an issue that the Government has taken a lot of criticism over in this budget.”

Mr Drake stressed that while the voting intention numbers are not directly comparable to the regular EMRS Omnibus given the nature of this poll, some observations can be reasonably drawn.

“These numbers would tend to suggest that while the Liberal vote has declined markedly since the election, Labor has yet to capitalise on this”, Mr Drake concluded.

*\*This poll was undertaken from 2-11 October via EMRS’ Tasmanian Community Online Panel. Results have been weighted to age, gender, region and past vote to provide a margin of error of 4.38 per cent. The poll was commissioned by EMRS.*

## **RESULTS SUMMARY**

Q: Overall, do you think the budget was good or bad for Tasmania?

Very good	3%
Somewhat good	19%
Neither good nor bad	26%
Somewhat bad	28%
Very bad	17%
Don't know/ unsure	7%

Q: How do you think the budget will affect you personally - do you believe you will be better or worse off?

Much better off	2%
A little better off	4%
Neither better off or worse off	49%
A little worse off	27%
Much worse off	11%
Don't know/ unsure	7%

Q: Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with how the following were addressed in the budget – Cost of Living?

Very satisfied	2%
Somewhat satisfied	9%
Neither satisfied or dissatisfied	23%
Somewhat dissatisfied	34%
Very dissatisfied	29%
Don't know/ unsure	4%

Q: Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with how the following were addressed in the budget – Health?

Very satisfied	4%
Somewhat satisfied	17%
Neither satisfied or dissatisfied	13%
Somewhat dissatisfied	26%
Very dissatisfied	35%
Don't know/ unsure	5%

Q: Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with how the following were addressed in the budget – Housing?

Very satisfied	2%
Somewhat satisfied	14%
Neither satisfied or dissatisfied	16%
Somewhat dissatisfied	29%
Very dissatisfied	32%
Don't know/ unsure	6%

Q: Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with how the following were addressed in the budget – Debt?

Very satisfied	3%
Somewhat satisfied	8%
Neither satisfied or dissatisfied	25%
Somewhat dissatisfied	22%
Very dissatisfied	34%
Don't know/ unsure	8%

Q: Thinking about state politics. If a Tasmanian state election were being held today, who would receive your first preference vote?

The Liberal Party	28%
The Labor Party	26%
The Greens	17%
The Jacqui Lambie Network	5%
An Independent	15%
Some other minor party	1%
Unsure	4%
Prefer not to say	4%