



**MEDIA RELEASE**

## **Thomas wants a shake up to Land Tax**

Damon Recently issued State Government land tax bills will have a devastating effect on small business, home renters and families with a second home.

Damon Thomas, Hobart City Council candidate for Alderman and former Chief Executive of the Tasmanian Chamber of Commerce and Industry said that it was incomprehensible how land tax could increase by as much as 70% in one year for some properties.

“Looking back over the past 10 years, the State Government receipts for land tax have risen by nearly 300%. During that same period, there has been no attempt to change the tax structure or thresholds to take the pressure off taxpayers.”

Mr Thomas said these new extraordinary land tax imposts would have a devastating affect on the financial sustainability of small business and he held special fears for Hobart CBD traders.

“The CBD is still reeling from the loss of the Myer department store which traders say has resulted in reduced foot traffic in key shopping areas. The CBD is set to resemble an economic doughnut.”

“It is simply unfair and unjustifiable for people who chose to have their normal weekly income and retirement savings tied up in their small business to then be liable to land tax when people who own their own home or work for wages pay nothing.”

“People renting their home are also being hit for six. Unlike those living in their own home or in public housing, those in the private rental market get slugged for land tax in their rental payments”.

“Whilst the Commonwealth Government recently gave pensioners a modest pension increase, the State Government is now driving its hand into their pocket to get the money back out, plus more.”

Mr Thomas said it is ironic that that State Government stands on ceremony about protecting jobs and creating employment when it then goes out and smashes small business against the wall causing loss of life savings and forcing their employers into the job market.

“Whilst land tax is a State Government revenue measure, its affect on City businesses and home renters is profound and must not be allowed to continue. I will be using all my influence to persuade the Council to make the strongest possible representations to the Government to provide urgently relief.”

**For comment:**

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