



Australian Institute of Architects

MEDIA RELEASE

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Institute of Architects Tasmanian Chapter president applauds government investment in local construction industry

The Tasmanian Government's 2017/18 budget contains almost \$700 million worth of direct and indirect investment that benefits the local construction industry:

- \$51.1m in schools and education infrastructure
- \$8 million for tourism infrastructure in national parks
- \$10m for the extension of the \$20,000 first-home builders grant to June 2018, as well as a reduction in stamp duty on house and land packages
- \$493.7 million infrastructure investment in a range of projects including:
 - The Royal Hobart Hospital Redevelopment - \$388.7 million;
 - Mersey Community Hospital upgrade - \$35 million;
 - Hospital upgrades and maintenance across the state - \$17.9 million;
 - Glenorchy and Kingston health centres - \$12.5 million;
 - Launceston General Hospital 4K children's ward - \$7.7 million;
 - A new ward at the Hobart Repatriation Hospital - \$7 million; and
 - A new St Helens District Hospital - \$11.4 million.
- \$25 million for a youth employment strategy, including \$17.1 million in payroll tax relief for businesses that employ apprentices, trainees and young people, with grants of up to \$4000 for small businesses to employ a trainee or apprentice.
- \$4 million for a partnership with the Tasmanian Council of Social Service and Chamber of Commerce and Industry to remove the barriers that stop young people getting work.

Australian Institute of Architects Tasmanian Chapter President Yvette Breytenbach has applauded the allocation of funds and incentives towards invigorating the construction industry in the immediate and long term future - particularly in the provision of health and education facilities, and the support of youth training and apprenticeships.

"In our practice, architects address complex and multilayered aspects of functional and community needs to deliver best practice, relevant, contemporary facilities. We look forward to playing a valuable role in the successful outcomes this budget anticipates for the benefit of our industry, our community and our built environment."

For quotes and interview requests with AIA Tasmanian Chapter President Yvette Breytenbach, please contact Dale Campisi on the contacts below.

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