



## MEDIA RELEASE

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SHADOW MINISTER FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND  
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**REVEALED: ABBOTT GOVERNMENT CUTTING TASMANIAN RAIL TO PAY  
FOR IRRIGATION PROJECTS**

It has been revealed today in Senate Estimates that the Abbott Government is cutting \$60 million from Tasmanian rail projects to pay for irrigation projects in the state.

In a classic case of robbing Peter to pay Paul, the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development told Senate Estimates today that the Abbott Government have chosen to use its \$60 million cut to rail projects in Tasmania to pay for new irrigation projects in the state.

*“Some of it [the cut to rail funding] has been utilised as an offset for the investment in the Tasmanian Irrigation Program ... \$30 million”*

**DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
OFFICIAL, SENATE RURAL AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS AND TRANSPORT  
LEGISLATION COMMITTEE – 27 MAY 2015**

When Prime Minister Tony Abbott flew into the state to announce the new irrigation projects with his Tasmanian Liberal colleagues he hailed the funding as providing for new economic infrastructure.

It is now clear that the new irrigation infrastructure will only be built on the back of cuts to vital rail projects in Tasmania. Both of these projects are vital to the long-term future of the state.

The delay in fully funding the \$240 million promised by the previous Labor Government as part of the Tasmanian Freight Revitalisation project rests on the Tasmanian Liberal Government refusing to match Federal contributions.

Instead of posing for photo opportunities, the Federal Tasmanian Liberals should be

demanding Tony Abbott and Tasmanian Premier Will Hodgman find the funding for vital rail projects in this state.

**WEDNESDAY, 27 MAY 2015**