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MEDIA RELEASE

SILENCE ON GST THREATENS ALL TASMANIANS

As the Liberal campaign to change the GST ramps up around the country, the silence of Premier Hodgman and Senator Abetz threatens all Tasmanians.

In the last fortnight:

- [Federal Treasurer Joe Hockey](#) announced his intention to change GST arrangements to give Western Australia a larger share;
- Federal Assistant Treasurer Josh Frydenberg advocated changes to the GST threshold (*The Australian*, 5 January 2015);
- WA Liberal Premier Colin Barnett campaigned for a [per-capita distribution](#), which could [cost Tasmania more than \\$700 million](#);
- Queensland Liberal Treasurer Tim Nicholls threw his [support behind the WA Liberal campaign](#);
- SA Treasurer Tom Koutsantonis [stood up against the attack on SA's GST](#); and
- Premier Hodgman and Senator Abetz did absolutely nothing to protect Tasmania's GST.

Today Victorian Liberal MP Dan Tehan also called for fresh food, education and health to attract GST as a priority for Tony Abbott in 2015 (*Australian Financial Review*, 5 January 2015).

When obesity in Tasmania has almost doubled in recent years, this proposal seems like nothing more than a cash grab.

A GST on health expenses alone would slug Australian families an extra \$3 billion a year in addition to the Abbott Government's planned GP co-payment tax.

Before the 2013 election Tony Abbott promised there would be "*no new or increased taxes*".

On 33 occasions he specifically ruled out changes to the GST.

But now Tony Abbott and Joe Hockey appear to be letting their Liberal colleagues lay the groundwork for them to break that promise.

Where are Premier Hodgman and Senator Abetz in this GST debate? Their time to stand up for Tasmania appears to be fast running out.

Premier Hodgman and Senator Abetz should demand Tony Abbott keep his promise.

They must meet with Joe Hockey immediately regarding the potential impact on Tasmania otherwise it will be clear they have no influence within the Abbott Government.

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