

NEWS RELEASE

Hon Tom Koutsantonis MP

Treasurer



Thursday, 21 December 2017

2016-17 surplus \$200 million larger than forecast

South Australia's surplus for 2016-17 was \$204 million larger than forecast at the time of the 2017-18 State Budget.

The Mid Year Budget Review, to be delivered by Treasurer Tom Koutsantonis today, will record a surplus for last financial year of \$443 million.

The improvement compared with the estimate at the time of the 2017–18 Budget reflects a combination of higher than expected revenue of \$211 million, partly offset by a slight increase in expenditure of \$7 million. The boost to revenue was contributed to from a range of sources, including payments for health services accessed by interstate patients and school fees from international students.

The final budget outcome for 2016–17 follows a surplus of \$300 million delivered in 2015–16. This is the ninth surplus delivered by the Labor Government since 2002.

2017-18 MYBR

The State Government has also paid down significant debt since the release of the 2017-18 State Budget, with the Government's net debt to revenue ratio now in a stronger position than Victoria, WA, NT and the ACT.

Net debt to revenue as at 2017-18 MYBR				
	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
WA ¹	84.7%	96.1%	98.9%	87.9%
NT	35.0%	54.4%	64.2%	74.5%
ACT ¹	37.5%	49.6%	49.4%	46.8%
VIC	33.6%	34.9%	37.7%	39.4%
SA	25.6%	30.5%	32.3%	32.9%
NSW	-3.7%	11.7%	21.5%	28.0%
QLD ²	1.6%	7.9%	14.5%	18.7%
TAS ^{1 2}	-7.7%	-3.4%	-3.6%	-5.6%

¹ As at 2017-18 Budget. 2017-18 MYBR has not yet been released.

² QLD's net debt is reported effectively inclusive of superannuation assets (thus lowering the net debt to revenue) and is not comparable to other jurisdictions. Tasmania's debt number is not comparable as Tasmania does not fully fund its unfunded superannuation liability in the same way as other states and territories.

Media Contact: David Russell 0434 307 012

Quotes attributable to Treasurer Tom Koutsantonis

This is a very strong final Budget position for 2016-17 with a surplus of almost half a billion dollars.

Our economy performed well in 2016-17, with South Australia's Gross State Product increasing by more than any other state on per capita terms - up 1.6 per cent compared with the national rate of 0.4 per cent.

We also lived within our means, while focussing on creating jobs by investing in infrastructure and helping small businesses grow and take on new staff with the help of \$10,000 Job Accelerator Grants.

Our strong surpluses in recent years have allowed us to invest in our economy and create jobs as we absorb the shock of the loss of Holden. Those measures are working, with our unemployment rate improving significantly in the past 12 months.

We have also paid down debt significantly, improving our financial position and our ability to invest in large-scale infrastructure projects.

But there is more to do as the full impact of the loss of automotive manufacturing washes through the economy, and that task has been made more difficult as a result of the Liberals blocking the Major Bank Levy, which has ripped more than \$370 million out of the forward estimates.

Job creation remains the State Government's number one priority, however, and we will continue to partner with business to create new jobs in high growth industries through our \$200 million Future Jobs Fund and payroll tax relief for small business.