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Leadership Crisis Threatens Jobs, Investment and Confidence

The Launceston Chamber of Commerce is calling on all Members of the Tasmanian Parliament to put the economy first. With a leadership vote looming, the Chamber warns that the cost of instability is not political—it is economic, and it will be felt by businesses, workers, and communities across Tasmania.

“Once the vote is taken, it’s too late. Chaos ensues and uncertainty reigns for 8 weeks,” said Alina Bain, CEO of the Launceston Chamber of Commerce. “That’s a terrible loss of momentum—for potentially no change at all. We risk winding up in the same position, but with reputational damage, stalled investment, and business confidence shaken.”

The Chamber warns that the consequences will be immediate and measurable:

- Known private sector investment—estimated at over \$350 million across housing, tourism, and industrial projects—will go on hold until confidence returns.
- The State Budget is not yet passed. What happens to public sector payrolls and program delivery if Parliament descends into dysfunction?
- Support Liberty Bell Bay and its workforce may stall—putting regional livelihoods at greater risk
- National reputation is on the line—Tasmania is fast becoming the political punchline of the country, when we should be leading it in economic strategy and stability.

Businesses across Northern Tasmania are already managing rising freight costs, housing pressures, and connectivity gaps. They cannot afford added political dysfunction. The Chamber’s key priorities remain:

- Reforming the Tasmanian Freight Equalisation Scheme
- Delivering Launceston’s Conference Centre as a job-generating infrastructure priority
- Investing in digital capability across regional and outer-urban areas
- Coordinated housing, health, and education investments to attract a skilled workforce

“The business community is ready to invest, hire and grow. But no business makes decisions in a vacuum of uncertainty. Every day of political chaos puts millions in economic activity at risk,” Ms Bain said.

“We urge all Tasmanian MPs—government and opposition—to resist self-interest and focus on stability, strategy and delivery. This is not just a political moment. It is a leadership test.”

The Launceston Chamber stands ready to work constructively with all sides of politics—but business cannot operate in an environment of drift and dysfunction. Tasmania deserves better. Tasmania must do better.

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