

News Release Premier Jay Weatherill

Treasurer
Minister for State Development
Minister for the Public Sector
Minister for the Arts

Tuesday, December 3, 2013

2013-14 Mid-Year Budget Review

Premier and Treasurer Jay Weatherill has handed down the 2013-14 Mid Year Budget Review – the final budgetary statement before the March election.

The MYBR sets out costings for the series of policies announced by the State Government since September.

“While supporting the policies in the State Government’s plan for Building a Stronger South Australia – across areas like education, transport, community safety and jobs - we continue to meet the government’s fiscal targets,” Mr Weatherill said.

“The Mid-Year Budget Review shows a much stronger starting position for the Budget than was estimated at the time of the 2013-14 Budget.

“The final outcome for 2012-13 was a net operating deficit of \$948 million, which was an improvement of more than \$350 million on the estimated result.

“This has led to a stronger and improved budget position right across the forward estimates.

“The Mid-Year Budget Review shows that our net debt is less than what the Budget had projected over the forward estimates.

“General government sector net debt is estimated to be \$6.6 billion in 2013-14, which is \$310 million lower than was forecast in the 2013-14 State Budget.”

The MYBR shows a modest deterioration in the net operating balance since the 2013-14 State Budget but a return to surplus is still forecast for 2015-16.

“We are confident of meeting these fiscal targets because the government has a track record of achieving savings,” Mr Weatherill said.

“Since the 2008-09 MYBR, savings delivered up to and including 2012-13 will result in a \$5.4 billion reduction in net debt by 2016-17, compared to what it would have been.

“This is well on the way to the \$7.8 billion target by the end of 2016-17.

The MYBR shows that tax and GST revenues have again decreased – by \$213 million across the forward estimates.

The level of debt remains low by international and historic comparisons and is on a par with other Australian states.

Media contact: Bronwyn Hurrell – 0400 269 078 | Jarrad Pilkington – 0409 060 380

“There are no additional savings measures and no new or increased taxes as part of this Mid-Year Budget Review,” Mr Weatherill said.

Costings for the Building a Stronger South Australia policies set out in the MYBR include:

- **\$16 million over three years** to ensure South Australians are supported to find, prepare for and keep meaningful jobs.
- **\$867,000 over four years** to encourage greater use of public transport by making it easier and more affordable
- **\$515,000 in 2014-15** for new laws and increased support for police
- **\$5.9 million over four years** for a new vision for inner-city living where more people can live centrally in affordable, well-designed homes.
- **\$2.9 million over four years** for measures to support and protect sustainable and internationally-competitive food and agribusiness sectors.
- **\$553,000 over two years** to help children to be more active outdoors and develop a stronger awareness of the natural environment.
- **\$597,000 over four years** for new actions to help our children experience the benefits of the online world while keeping them safe from harm
- **\$5.5 million over four years** for a suite of new measures that will strengthen children’s education.

“Through these new policies, we are continuing to invest in infrastructure that will provide the foundation for future growth and the services the community needs,” Mr Weatherill said.

The MYBR shows that general government sector full-time equivalent levels over the forward estimates are higher than those forecast at the time of the 2013-14 Budget.

It shows an increase of 1067 FTEs over the forward estimates.

FTEs in the general government sector are estimated to decrease by 3815 between 30 June 2013 and 30 June 2017.

While this decrease is 1067 FTEs lower than that forecast at the time of the Budget, the savings measures, while re-profiled over the forward estimates, remain in place to be delivered by 30 June 2017.