

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – 19th MAY 2026

The Middle East war endures and is continuing to affect pricing in many areas. With no end in sight the conflict is deemed to "have a long tail" which will affect our economy for many months to come. Currently the problem is not international availability of fuel but the price of that fuel as it must take alternate shipping routes to get here. We pay close attention to the situation via our contacts in ReCFIT but don't have a view of fuel stocks past June 30.



A highlight of recent times was the breakfast networking session presented by Senator Daniel Mulino – the Assistant Treasurer who was a last-minute replacement for Senator Katy Gallagher. Daniel presented some insights into the upcoming federal budget without leaking national secrets and was a very engaging speaker – thanks to Anne Urquhart MP for "shanghaiing" Daniel in for us.

Unfortunately, we have had to postpone this week's breakfast with Matthew Brownlie due to him being ill and unable to travel.

A great opening address by Cyndia Hilliger yesterday at the Regional Tourism Forum hosted by West X North West.

Cyndia spoke of the main theme of the forum being 'Opportunity' and how operators can move towards excellence by addressing opportunities using technology such as AI and other tools to improve their offerings to customers.



We heard from tourism operators and industry gurus about their pathways towards excellence and how they made their products unique by leveraging opportunities and the Tasmanian brand.



All eyes and ears this week will be on the state government budget and how Treasurer Abetz can address the deep debt situation we are in. We hope he won't be increasing fees/taxes on business transactions as many are struggling at the moment.

TCCI will be in the budget lockdown and providing an update late Thursday. I won't make much comment on the federal budget as it has dominated the air waves this week. Unfortunately for the government it has not been well received and could well be its downfall.

Last week HIF Global received some good news for this project and the 200 jobs it will create on the old pulp mill site in South Burnie. The federal government has chosen HIF as one of seven companies to vie for funding under the Hydrogen Headstart program which provides a production credit when the plant opens. We hold great hope that HIF will be successful in the final round in October this year.



We are sad to see TCCI CEO Michael Bailey OAM departing TCCI to join NTDC in July. Michael has been a fantastic CEO over a long period and very supportive of Business Northwest. We wish him well for the future. COO Colleen Reardon has stepped into the Acting CEO role and will draw on her 16 years at TCCI to lead the organisation forward.



Two interesting local conferences in the next few weeks:



Tasmanian Business Conference 2026

27 May | Paranapple Convention Centre, Devonport

Strong demand for meaningful dialogue, leadership and practical insight is shaping the Tasmanian Business Conference in its second year. [Bookings here.](#)



The Tasmanian Energy Development Conference

3-4 June | Paranapple Convention Centre, Devonport



















This year's event will focus on the transformative developments shaping Tasmania's renewable energy sector as the state continues to lead the way in clean energy innovation and sustainability. [Bookings here.](#)

I am chairing this one so hope to see you there!

Best regards



Ian Jones – President

PLATINUM MEMBERS		
		
		
GOLD MEMBERS		
		
		
SILVER MEMBERS		
		
		
		
BRONZE MEMBERS		
