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MATT SMITH STATE POLITICAL EDITOR • MERCURY •
FEBRUARY 26, 2015 12:00AM



FORMER Tasmanian premier David Bartlett says a new online application could revolutionise the way people interact with politicians.

Mr Bartlett said the application PlaceSpeak — a start-up by a company of which he is a director — could be adopted by local government to create better outcomes for citizens.

PlaceSpeak is a location-based community consultation platform.

It uses geo-location technology to allow people to sign up and contribute to debates that concern their community.

In an Australian-first this week, Kingborough councillor Dean Winter used PlaceSpeak to encourage debate on a proposed dog ban at the Alum Cliff track in his municipality.

“I used social media to let the community know about the proposal and asked them to sign up to PlaceSpeak and tell me what they thought,” he said.

“About 90 per cent didn’t want dogs banned from the final section of the track.”

After the PlaceSpeak consultation, a majority of councillors changed their votes on the issue and decided to support dogs on leads in the area, after previously considering banning them.

Mr Bartlett, who is co-ordinating the rollout of PlaceSpeak in Australia, said the application could be used to link the community with politicians in a way that had not previously been possible.

“People become sensors, interacting with their city and, in doing that, government can solve a whole lot of problems in new ways,” he said.

He compared it with a recent trip he took to Europe 20 years after his first visit, when he lugged travel books around instead of using travel apps on a smart phone.

“Government needs to stop acting like the old Frommer guide and start behaving more like Tripadvisor,” he said.

“Government is finding it hard to keep up. Platforms like PlaceSpeak allow government to make that switch.



Former Tasmanian Labor Premier David Bartlett has a new app.



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Warning on Libs’ plan for low growth



RATINGS agency Standard and Poor’s says the Government’s plans to maintain expense growth at a very low rate will be “somewhat challenging”.

Tip tipped to stay, at a price



HOBART ratepayers look set to keep their entire tip site a while longer yet — but at a cost.

Budget surplus ahead of schedule



THE Hodgman government has made the most of a lucky GST windfall to deliver a surplus three years ahead of schedule while increasing spending on health, education and police.

State Budget 2015 live blog



DEPUTY Premier Jeremy Rockliff joins us for a live blog on the State Budget today from 5.15pm, followed by other industry representatives from 5.45pm.

Our 10 questions left unanswered



THIS morning, State Political Editor **MATT SMITH** identified 10 key questions about today’s Budget.

“There is a massive economic opportunity to reduce costs and produce better services and outcomes.”

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NATIONAL

WORLD

OPINION

PHOTOS



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- Better to fix the roof in the sunshine



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