

The Australian Education Union Tasmania has called the Tasmanian Government's alleged education funding cuts damaging for not only future students but also teachers and parents alike.

The government's revised budget estimate report shows a possible \$108.9 million-dollar reduction in spending on the state's education system over the next four years, to which AUE Tasmania branch executive member David Genford mentioned would leave a lasting impact on schools across the state, saying quote "taking on average \$555, 000 away from every school will mean less support and more work for teachers, taking them away FROM teaching."

However, Education minister Jeromy Rockliff has hit back at the AEU's allegations, saying the government was not making any such cuts to frontline services in education.

Mr Rockliff also went on to explain how the current investments into Tasmania's education system are helping to employ an extra 250 teachers and a new needs-based funding model for disabled student support.

In Launceston, police have arrested three people in relation to a robbery and assault that happened earlier this morning in the busy Quadrant mall. The man entered one of the stores in the CBD mall and reportedly assaulted a staff member before he fled on foot.

Police carried out major searches around the mall and surrounding areas, which led to the arrests of three people who may or may not have been involved in the crime - Launceston police will provide further information later.

A dispute between Toll Tasmania and the Maritime Union of Australia has finally been resolved, which will help to ease the major backlog of freight that

has been accumulating at the Toll facilities in Burnie and Victoria.

Following a spate of debilitating issues including teething problems with its larger vessels and a ransomware cyber-attack, Toll came to an in-principle agreement with its employees at Webb Dock in Melbourne after industrial action was also taken in regard to overtime bans and shift extensions. The incident has caused major exporting delays out of Tasmania, which represented nearly 16% of the state's economy in 2019, and now that everything is resolved, ships will now begin to move through Bass Strait as normal.

To sports news now, and with the cancellation of the Australian Grand Prix in Melbourne only recently being announced earlier this morning, Tasmania's hopes of hosting their own leg of the Formula 1 may now also be in jeopardy.

Amidst the coronavirus pandemic, the F1's are now the latest Tasmanian event facing cancellation, which could potentially affect the state's economy upwards of \$10 million dollars.

The race is held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 5<sup>th</sup> of April at Symmons Plains Raceway and tickets were in high demand due to the event being the final time Holden supercars would race at the venue in Tasmania. The state government only last year signed a new four year \$7.35 million dollar deal to keep the event in Tasmania, and with the threat of coronavirus engulfing many events globally, Supercars Australia will now need to decide whether to cancel next months race all together, postpone it, or simply hold the event without spectators - which is also what has been decided for next Friday's One Day International cricket match at Blundstone Arena between Australia and New Zealand.

Aand finally, the Southern Football League's president Madeleine Ogilvie and vice-president Kyron Johnson have both stood down from their roles just three weeks before the start of the footy season. Informing the board on Wednesday night - under the constitution - Ogilvie and Johnson's resignations leave the TSL without permanent replacements until next year.

The decision will likely cause no disruptions to the competition as the men's fixtures are already organised and the women's to be organised next week.

And that's what's making news headlines for the 13<sup>th</sup> of March