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THE VOICE OF TASMANIA

MERCURY

Battle won, fight goes on

It is good news for Tasmania that the proposed new GST legislation that includes a guarantee that our state will be no worse off was passed late yesterday by the House of Representatives in Canberra.

As we noted last week, it was the intense lobbying by Tasmania's Liberal senators — and their brinkmanship through not ruling out crossing the floor — that forced Treasurer Josh Frydenberg to blink first. Mr Frydenberg dumped his opposition to the states-demanded guarantee that none would be worse off under the new model for how GST receipts are shared around the federation. Instead, he promised to legislate a guarantee that none would be worse off until at least 2026-27.

It was, on the face of it, a big win for Tasmania. We have a higher reliance on GST revenue than any other state. A worrying 40 per cent of the cash in the state budget this year comes from the GST, and most of that is from GST paid by consumers on the mainland. That money is needed to ensure our health and education services are properly funded, and so any threat to it is a threat to the right of Tasmanians to receive the same essential services as anybody in the

Savage irony in Invictus Games

WHILE it is inspiring to watch the Invictus Games this month, there is a savage irony in realising that among the sponsors of the games are companies that manufacture the same weapons that cause so many of the injuries suffered by these veterans, let alone the civilians who are killed or maimed as "collateral damage". Their names include Lockheed Martin, who are making millions from selling Australia the F-35 Joint Strike Fighters, Raytheon and Boeing.

I wonder what would happen if Prince Harry would raise this contradiction just as his mother led the campaign against landmines before her untimely death?

Peter D. Jones
Lenah Valley

Glaring meter problems

I SYMPATHISE with Sally Boyle over the new parking meters in Hobart (Letters, October 20). The few times I have used them I have noticed some glaring problems. It is hard to read the screen because it is in a lower position than the older ones. I have noticed some people bending at awkward angles to use them. Council may get some complaints about sore backs. They also need some glare control fitted around the screen so it is actually possible to read them. I have found using cash a lot easier because there are fewer steps involved so less can go wrong.

Warren Robertson
Relatrive



CHEEKY: An athlete asks for an autograph from Prince Harry. Picture: Saeed KHAN/AFP

pecially. If Greg wants to see some native hens I suggest he come to Beedhams Bay, Claremont, where there's a thriving colony. However I do remember that over 40 years ago when we took over the Oatlands Pharmacy we were approached by farmers

ifying it's self-regulatory mechanisms. This equates to severe planetary distress. Deforestation and industrial smoke also have negative impacts on the globe's lung capacity and air quality and undermines the well being of animal and human life. The unsustainable explosion of human popu-