



## 2016 FEDERAL BUDGET



Henderson and Marles square off over how our region will fare

# Geelong fiscal fist fight

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A NO-FRILLS budget is set to be handed down by the Federal Treasurer tonight but Geelong's election contenders have fired their first fiscal arguments.

Scott Morrison is set to announce a new public dental scheme and restore funding to corporate watchdog ASIC, following several pre-Budget announcements, with no

changes to negative gearing or the GST.

The Geelong region is billed \$1.4 billion in tax before deductions from personal gross income of \$7.2 billion, one of the biggest regional contributors to the Federal Budget.

Corio MP Richard Marles said the Federal Government was set to slash 275 CSIRO jobs nationwide, with Geelong positions at risk due to the cutbacks.

"The CSIRO is a big em-



Richard Marles

ployer in Geelong — 250 people employed at the Australian Animal Health Laboratory and 150 jobs are supported by Carbon Nexus," Mr Marles said.



Sarah Henderson

"Geelong is a science town and those two institutions are being slashed by the Government despite its so-called innovation agenda."

Corangamite MP Sarah Henderson said the Budget would highlight the Government's plan for jobs and growth.

"Across our region, small business is a key driver of jobs growth," the Liberal MP said.

"The Liberals are already providing very considerable support to small business and farmers abolishing the carbon tax, delivering a \$20,000 instant asset write off, a 1.5 per cent company tax cut and fixing competition law to combat

abuses of market power."

Corangamite Labor candidate Libby Coker said Mr Morrison was set to give wealthy Australians a "double tax cut".

"We now know this Budget will look after high income earners and big business while costing families with cuts to schools and hospitals," Ms Coker said.

"(Malcolm) Turnbull and Mr Morrison have a choice this Budget — and they're choosing the top end of town."