

30th November, 2009

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**ABC**  
Australian  
Broadcasting  
Corporation

News and Current Affairs

ABC Centre  
Liverpool Street  
Hobart TAS 7001

GPO Box 9994  
Hobart TAS 7001

Tel. +61 3 6235 3333  
abc.net.au

David Bartlett  
Premier  
11th Floor  
15 Murray Street  
Hobart 7001

DEPARTMENT OF  
PREMIER & CABINET  
CA 236497  
- 2 OCT 2009  
NO. 7105-03

Dear Premier,

With an election to be held on March 20 next year I am writing to you, the Leader of the Opposition and the Leader of the Greens inviting you to be involved in a televised debate.

The ABC would like to produce a debate between the Leaders and televise it at 7.30 on a Friday night in the lead up to election day.

We are open to discussion on the format and are considering a Q and A style debate or a more conventional debate with questions from a moderator. The exact format and what date can be worked out at a later date.

A debate on the ABC would provide you with a forum with Statewide coverage to express your policies.

Because of the planning involved could you indicate by mid- December if you are interested in an election debate.

I can be contacted on 62353620 if you require any further details.

Yours sincerely,

**Andrew Fisher**  
State Editor News and Current Affairs.

For general use  
 ACTUALLY REQUIRED  
 Act for Premier's Office  
 For Action (eg reply finalisation)  
 Minutes to be filed  
 For Information  
 Invitation Meeting

Copy to \_\_\_\_\_  
 Act for Premier's Office  
 For Information

**Rogers, Matthew (DPaC)**

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**From:** Rogers, Matthew (DPaC)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 4 February 2010 3:36 PM  
**To:** 'dspeers@skynews.com.au'  
**Subject:** Tas election debate

(2)

Hi David,

As per our phone conversation just now, the State Labor Government is very keen to have a televised debate between the Premier and alternate premier in the lead-up to the Tasmanian election on March 20.

We have reached a stalemate with the ABC, which insists on a three-way debate including the Greens' leader.

This is not of interest to us – we believe it needs to be a debate between the two major party leaders, as I explained. It was great to hear from you that Sky News may be interested in hosting the debate.

We would be willing to work with you to develop a suitable format, etc, to ensure this happens.

We are reasonably flexible in terms of debate dates but our preference would be for the final week of the campaign.

Please have a think about this and let me know what we need to do in order to progress arrangements.

Thanks for your time.

Regards,


Matt

**Matthew Rogers**  
Senior Political Adviser  
Office of David Bartlett MP  
Premier of Tasmania

p 03 6233 2222

f 03 6234 1572

m [ ] mobile telephone number deleted  
e [matt.rogers@dpac.tas.gov.au](mailto:matt.rogers@dpac.tas.gov.au)

 Please consider the environment before printing

**Rogers, Matthew (DPaC)**

---

**From:** David Speers [dspeers@skynews.com.au]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 4 February 2010 6:53 PM  
**To:** Rogers, Matthew (DPaC)  
**Subject:** RE: Tas election debate

2

Thanks Matt,

Sky News is very happy to go ahead with this.

I would propose a one hour debate on the Sunday night before the election (March 14) at 7:30pm.

I'm happy to host the debate. Would you be comfortable with a panel of 3 local journalists (print, radio and tv) to ask questions as well?

We'll broadcast the debate live on Sky News and make it available to any other TV networks, radio stations or websites who want to broadcast it as well.

We'll need to think about the best venue. Is there something like the Great Hall of Parliament or a similar venue that would be appropriate?

Many thanks and feel free to call on my mobile below.

Cheers,

David Speers.

[mobile phone number] deleted

---

**From:** Rogers, Matthew (DPaC) [Matthew.Rogers@dpac.tas.gov.au]  
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 Please consider the environment before printing

**Rogers, Matthew (DPaC)**

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**From:** Rogers, Matthew (DPaC)  
**Sent:** Friday, 5 February 2010 10:33 AM  
**To:** 'David Speers'  
**Subject:** RE: Tas election debate

4

Hi David,  
That is excellent news, thank you.  
I will come back to you later today with some suggestions on the points you have raised.

Regards,  
Matt

**From:** David Speers [mailto:dspeers@skynews.com.au]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 4 February 2010 6:53 PM  
**To:** Rogers, Matthew (DPaC)  
**Subject:** RE: Tas election debate

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mobile telephone

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**Rogers, Matthew (DPaC)**

---

**From:** Rogers, Matthew (DPaC)  
**Sent:** Friday, 5 February 2010 3:58 PM  
**To:** 'David Speers'  
**Subject:** RE: Tas election debate

5

Hi David,

It's all go for the debate from our end - we are very happy with what Sky is proposing.  
If you can give me a call when you get off-air, we can discuss a few logistical issues such as:

- Venue
- Local journalists to participate on the panel
- Any rules around giving other networks and outlets access to debate footage
- Live audience

The best number to reach me on will be [mobile telephone] number deleted

Regards,  
Matt

**From:** David Speers [mailto:dspeers@skynews.com.au]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 4 February 2010 6:53 PM  
**To:** Rogers, Matthew (DPaC)  
**Subject:** RE: Tas election debate

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David Speers.

[mobile telephone]

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**To:** David Speers  
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**Rogers, Matthew (DPaC)**

---

**From:** Rogers, Matthew (DPaC)  
**Sent:** Sunday, 7 February 2010 3:40 PM  
**To:** David Speers  
**Cc:** Angelos Frangopoulos; Geoff Crane  
**Subject:** RE: Tas election debate

7

Hi David, Angelos and Geoff,

That sounds great, I will forward some contact details for the relevant officials at Parliament House who would be able to make arrangements for you to view the two possible debate venues there - the Long Room and the Reception Room.

If I can assist with suggestions on any other external venues, please let me know.

I would be happy to meet whilst you are in town to discuss any logistical issues, etc.

As for local journalists to form part of a debate panel, we are understandably - I hope - reluctant to nominate preferred people.

We are very happy for you to choose whomever you wish.

I can supply you with some names of the main political reporters at each local outlet, though, as this may be a good starting point to make contact and assist you in making the decisions:

TV: Emily Bryan (Southern Cross), Jane Miller (Win), Rowan Dix and Amanda Allie (ABC).

Newspapers: Matt Denholm (The Australian), Sue Neales (Mercury), Alison Andrews (Examiner), Chris Pippos (Advocate).

Editors are: Garry Bailey (Mercury), Fiona Reynolds (Examiner) and Jason Purdie (Advocate).

Political radio news is dominated in Tasmania by the ABC, with only a handful of mostly office-bound news people at the commercial stations.

Key ABC radio political people are Tim Cox and Simon Fraser.

The Premier will write to the Opposition Leader to advise him of the broad details of our debate arrangements.

We will also need to make a public statement to this effect as the Premier is being asked about whether there will be an election debate by local media and he does not wish to be in a position of being less than open and transparent.

He would be saying that Sky's coverage is a great coup for Tasmania as it is the first time a state election debate here has been broadcast live nationally.

I look forward to seeing you soon and please let me know if there is anything I can do to assist.

Regards,

Matt

Sent from my Windows Mobile® phone.

---

**From:** David Speers <dspeers@skynews.com.au>  
**Sent:** Friday, 5 February 2010 05:42 PM  
**To:** Rogers, Matthew (DPaC) <Matthew.Rogers@dpac.tas.gov.au>  
**Cc:** Angelos Frangopoulos <AFrangop@skynews.com.au>; Geoff Crane <gcrane@skynews.com.au>  
**Subject:** RE: Tas election debate

Hi Matt,

I've copied in our CEO, Angelos Frangopoulos and our Canberra Operations Manager, Geoff Crane.

They will both visit in the next week or two to check out some venues and work out those logistics.

Thanks again,  
David.

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**From:** Rogers, Matthew (DPaC) [Matthew.Rogers@dpac.tas.gov.au]  
**Sent:** Friday, 5 February 2010 3:57 PM  
**To:** David Speers  
**Subject:** RE: Tas election debate

Hi David,

It's all go for the debate from our end - we are very happy with what Sky is proposing.

If you can give me a call when you get off-air, we can discuss a few logistical issues such as:

**Rogers, Matthew (DPaC)**

---

**From:** Angelos Frangopoulos [AFrangop@skynews.com.au]  
**Sent:** Sunday, 7 February 2010 4:33 PM  
**To:** Rogers, Matthew (DPaC); David Speers  
**Cc:** Geoff Crane  
**Subject:** Re: Tas election debate

8

Matthew,

Thanks for the email.

Some key points for your announcement.

Sky News is hosting the leader's debate on a non exclusive basis and it will be offered to all media, including the ABC.

We welcome the opportunity to give Tasmanian politics a national platform and profile.

The journalists panel will selected by Political editor David Speers.

Sky News believes the debate is a forum for the Premier and the alternative Premier to put forward their case for governing the state.

Angelos

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SKY NEWS BUSINESS Australia's Business Channel A-PAC Australia's Public Affairs Channel

----- Original Message -----

**From:** Rogers, Matthew (DPaC) <Matthew.Rogers@dpac.tas.gov.au>  
**To:** David Speers  
**Cc:** Angelos Frangopoulos; Geoff Crane  
**Sent:** Sun Feb 07 15:40:16 2010  
**Subject:** RE: Tas election debate

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