



Senator Jacqui Lambie Senator for Tasmania

21 October 2015

Prime Minister
The Hon Malcolm Turnbull MP
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Prime Minister Turnbull,

Re: Senator Lambie's plan to advance Tasmania and other Australian States for Prime Minister Turnbull.

Introduction

For 50 years, many Australians have used Donald Horne's words 'Australia is the lucky country' (much to Mr Horne's disappointment) to describe how fortunate our nation is.

I understand, as do you - that we have been blessed with many natural gifts and resources – which make a lot of countries envious.

However, the time has now come for us to use our best resources namely; Australians' common sense, ability for hard work, resilience, respect for the weak, love of the underdog and ingenuity - to overcome the big challenges which we now face.

As a Senate candidate and Senator I have spent many years listening to Tasmanian industry leaders, community leaders and the disadvantaged.

From these conversations and parliamentary experiences, I have created a growing list of policies and political initiatives - that I genuinely believe address many of the issues and challenges your government, our industry, businesses and communities face.

They are based on the principle of Security; 1) Food/Water Security, 2) Energy Security, 3) National Security and 4) Australian Job Security. Each initiative I share with you connects with, protects and enhances one or more of these 4 security principles.

I invite you to read and consider the JLN policies with an approach and attitude you have become famous for i.e. a reasonable, compassionate, proud Australian - with an open mind and heart.

My Network's policies help solve the short-term, social and financial disadvantage faced by many - and ensures the continuation of Australia's reputation as the lucky country.

Sincerely

Senator Jacqui Lambie.
Senator for Tasmania

Shop 4/22 Mount Street PO
Box 256
Burnie TAS 7320

OFFICE: 03 6431 2233
EMAIL:
senator.lambie@aph.gov.au WEB:
www.senatorlambie.com.au

FAX: 03 6431 3200
TOLL FREE: 1300 885 041



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Tasmanian Specific Policies

1. Public Health Surgery and Dental Waiting List Crisis

- All our public hospitals in Tasmania are operating at 100% capacity and are in crisis. The Public Health Surgery and Dental Waiting List Crisis must be addressed, solved and dramatically cut by a joint federal and state special investment program.
- Note: Senator Lambie has ordered a parliamentary brief to quantify, describe and define the crisis. The brief will be submitted to a proven private health provider - in order for a quote to be produced - which estimates the cost of a successful intervention.

2. NW Tasmanian Public Hospital Feasibility Study

- A feasibility study should be launched which examines the need for a new public hospital located on a greenfield site between Devonport and Burnie (most likely Ulverstone) - where all NW public medical services can be located and centralized, thus ensuring for future generations - enhanced tertiary level medical care and treatment to the NW Tasmanian community.
- The care and treatment must be equivalent to the medical care provided to residents of Launceston and surrounds and prevent NW residents from being transported to Launceston for basic medical treatment.
- Under the existing state government public health plan - funded, resourced and staffed public hospital beds and medical services will further reduce.
- The state government's white paper essentially says that the number of fully funded and staffed acute care hospital beds in NW Tasmania will decrease. The acute care beds and accident emergency capacity at the Mersey Hospital is being continually downgraded. The ICU at Burnie hospital is being downgraded
- Where is the state going to put the 4000 public accident emergency admissions a year they plan to shut down at Devonport's Mersey Public hospital?
- A Tasmanian Commission of Health report released last year shows that our public hospital bed per thousand-population ratio was at 2.35 or in other words we have 1188 public hospital beds.
- This compares with the National average of 2.6 reported by the AMA (Australian Medical Association). The Tasmanian government needs to open another 145.8 public hospital beds just to catch up with the Australian Average.



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3. Special Economic Zone status and provisions, including zero rates of payroll tax

- Must be delivered and given to Tasmanian and other Australian communities, which are suffering from endemic long-term unemployment and other serious, social disadvantage.

4. Defence Contracts for Australian Land 400 and Pacific Patrol Boats

- Given Tasmania's comparatively high social and economic disadvantage, special consideration must be given by the Federal Government to Tasmanian companies with proven track records - and who have tendered for these and other defence projects.

5. University of Tasmania Associate Degree numbers to be uncapped and infrastructure funding boosted.

- Associate or Sub-degrees of approximately 2 years in length, are the higher education product that's now in great demand. They are described as the practical learning experience, which will gain you knowledge, qualifications and a job.
- However, research shows that in the space of 6 years – in demand Associate or Sub-degree numbers for the state of Tasmanian through UTAS - have been cut from 1095 to 60, a reduction by both Liberal and Labor parties of 1800%.
- UTAS wants to provide 10,000 associate degrees. UTAS's plans have been blocked by this government, which for political reasons has placed an artificial and arbitrary cap on the number of associate degrees, granted to our University.
- That associate degree cap should be lifted and UTAS must be allowed to significantly increase the number of associate degrees they deliver, while a plan is put in place to greatly boost Tasmania University infrastructure investment.
- Note : UTAS's contribution to Tasmania's economy is \$1.7B, 1 in 4 Tasmanians have a direct connection, 5,900 people are employed, more than 30,000 students are enrolled, UTAS is ranked in the top 2% of universities world-wide according to Academic Ranking of World Universities 2013.

6. Fast Cat Feasibility Study to be funded with a \$300K investment by the Federal government.

- The present restricted access to Tasmania by sea is constraining economic growth. We need additional sea linkages to ensure the effective and efficient flow of people, vehicles and freight.



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- A modern, large capacity, high speed vessel like a Fast Cat Ferry which is currently manufactured in Tasmanian will open up market competition, drive efficiencies and provide much need additional carrying capacity over Bass Strait.
- A \$300k Fast Cat Feasibility Study is a crucial first step in a journey, which will create thousands of new jobs and a billion dollar boost for Tasmania's economy.

7. Tasmania's Historic \$200m Public Housing Debt to the Commonwealth cancelled.

- Approximately half or \$17M of Tasmania's \$34M annual federal public housing budget is paid back to the Commonwealth government to service a historic debt of \$200M.
- The Commonwealth Government, in similar circumstances, waived or forgave the historic public housing debt for South Australia. Tasmania needs more affordable housing and waiving the federal public housing debt would be a good start to fixing our public housing crisis.

8. Natural Gas Price Crisis.

- Will be caused by the looming closure of Tasmania's only Gas fired power station at Bell Bay. It must be addressed and solved by establishing a process where workers, unions and industry leaders are consulted and asked to co-operate and remedy a predicted consumer gas price rise of up to 40%.
- A possible solution suggested by respected Tasmanian Business Leader Wayne Bould requires a privately owned Gas pipeline to be purchased by joint Federal and State investment, starting with a federal grant of \$40M.

9. Thermal Bio Energy from Tasmanian Wood Waste to be included in RET

- Thermal energy generated by burning Tasmanian certified Wood Waste should be accepted as a legitimate project for Clean Energy Finance Corporation funding/investment and inclusion at the full rate of compensation in the Renewable Energy Scheme (RET) scheme.
- This would enable Tasmanian manufacturing businesses like paper maker Norse Skog to replace the annual burning of 100,000 tonnes of coal for thermal energy with naturally occurring bio waste.
- Thermal Bio Energy from Tasmanian Wood Waste to be included in RET is a simple and practical policy, which will protect the Australian Environment and address climate change.



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10. Oil Recycling – Long Term Certainty for PSO Levy.

- The Oil recycling industry has been significantly affected by the slump in world crude oil prices over the past 12 months, so clarity about the Government's intentions for the Product Stewardship for Oil (PSO) Program is becoming a major factor in the industry's decisions on capital investments.
- While the Government has increased the PSO levy which funds Oil Recyclers businesses to 8.5cent per litre (2014-15 Budget), the government through its Environment Minister Hunt, has failed to officially respond to a 2013 review (AITHER) into the PSO. This has caused unnecessary uncertainty in the oil recycling industry and undermines the ability to invest in new technology.
- The Government through negotiation with the Australian Oil Recyclers Association (AORA) must commit to a levy price over the long term, which guarantees the viability and sustainability of the Oil Recycling industry.
- Long Term Certainty for the Oil Product Stewardship levy is another simple and practical policy, which will protect the Australian Environment, make efficient use of finite resources and address climate change.