



Tasmania

ALTERNATIVE BUDGET

S T A T E M E N T

2009-10

*Ready For Recovery:
Maintaining Affordable Services in
Tough Economic Times*

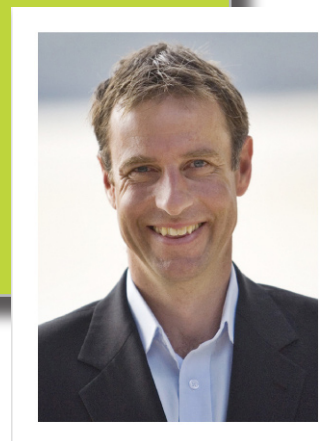


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Alternative Budget Statement 2009-10:-

Ready for Recovery: Maintaining Affordable Services in Tough Economic Times.



This *Ready for Recovery: Maintaining Affordable Services in Tough Economic Times Alternative Budget Statement* is formed in challenging times.

Tough global economic conditions will impact on investor confidence, and result in a dramatic downturn in revenues to the state. Climate change continues to pose the biggest public policy challenge currently facing humanity. And in Tasmania, unprecedented rises in basic costs of living like electricity prices, motor insurance, water and sewerage mean that many are struggling to make ends meet.

The Greens have responded to the downturn in GST revenues, as well as a reduction in revenue from state based taxes like stamp duty, by reviewing our support for the government's current fiscal strategy. We believe that is not only unlikely to be achievable while maintaining adequate services to the community, but lacks the flexibility that is necessary in uncertain economic times.

We have therefore adopted a new fiscal strategy, which is to maintain the state budget in surplus on a rolling six year basis.

The Greens' expenditure priorities are focussed on positioning Tasmania to be 'Recovery Ready', maximising the opportunities which will be available when the global economy begins its recovery. We will also invest in an early transition to a low carbon economy, creating sustainable, green collar jobs.

We have proposed extra investment into public transport, energy efficiency, and restoring a

healthy environment for Tasmanians to live in.

And we have chosen to invest in education, recognising that this provides the best long-term opportunity to lift Tasmania's economic performance and provide futures for our children.

This year, the Greens have chosen to demonstrate how significant savings could be made to Tasmania's public sector wages bill.

Our suggestion for a small, temporary reduction in working hours across the public sector could save taxpayers nearly \$100 million over a year.

Tasmania's taxation mix needs addressing. We currently tax desirable outcomes, such as jobs, but not undesirable outcomes, such as pollution. The Greens would initiate a full review of Tasmania's taxation mix, with a view to developing a modern, flexible and fair taxation regime in this state.

I would like to thank the individuals and organisations who contributed submissions towards the formulation of this *Alternative Budget Statement 2009-10*.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nick McKim". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Nick McKim MP

Leader of the Tasmanian Greens

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Chapter 1. Fiscal Strategy

Fiscal Strategy

A fiscal strategy is a critical component of budget preparation as it provides an outline of medium-term fiscal objectives in the context of the foreseeable economic climate. It also provides the framework against which expenditure and revenue-raising policies can be assessed.

Goal of the Fiscal Strategy

The 2009-10 Tasmanian Budget is being framed in the midst of an unprecedented global recession, which has impacted severely on state government revenues. These conditions can be expected to continue for some time, although the extent and severity of the downturn, and the speed and timing of the recovery, remain unknown. Despite the deteriorating and difficult economic times, it is imperative that panicked and ad hoc decisions are avoided.

The Greens' Fiscal Strategy reflects the need to reposition Tasmania to be able to capitalize on both the eventual recovery of international markets from the Global Financial Crisis, and the subsequent economic upturn. This will require new policy settings and a re-prioritisation of Government's current expenditure allocations and income sources.

The immediate challenges posed by the GFC make it critical that the 2009-10 Budget implements strategies that positions Tasmania to be ready for economic recovery, and addresses long-term challenges such as shifting towards a carbon-constrained economy.

We expect that the Government will emphasise the need to generate jobs and stimulate the economy as the core aims of the State Budget. However, throwing money at the wrong type of infrastructure and propping up unviable businesses is not prudent fiscal management. This Fiscal Strategy provides the framework that encourages public expenditure in social infrastructure, such as public transport and housing, and investment in skilling-up the workforce for economic recovery. It also positions Tasmania to meet the challenges of climate change.

The Greens remain committed to the principles of prudent fiscal management; to address short-term challenges, to position the state to maximize the emergence of new industries post recovery, and to be climate change ready.

Revenue

Revenues to the Tasmanian government will be markedly lower than in previous years, mostly as a result of a downturn in GST revenue from the Federal government, and a decrease in revenue from some state based taxes like stamp duty. The quantum of this revenue shortfall is unknown at the time of writing due to the State government's continual refusal to release real-time fiscal data to inform the debate.

The Greens believe that the state government's current fiscal strategy, which we have previously supported, of maintaining the State Budget in surplus on a four-year rolling average basis, is unachievable given the looming revenue shortfall.

The Greens support temporary deficit budgets during tough economic times, to allow for services to the community to be maintained. But we believe that in the medium term, budgets should remain in surplus on a rolling average basis. We are therefore adopting a new revised fiscal strategy of maintaining the State Budget in surplus on a six-year rolling average basis.

Given current uncertainty over the eventual length and severity of the global recession, and its impact on Tasmanian government revenues, as well as the uncertainty of the timing and rapidity of the global economic recovery, we will revisit this strategy in the lead-up to the March 2010 state election.

Debt

Broadly, the Tasmanian Greens' would only utilise debt for the purchase of specific infrastructure that has intergenerational life, and has significant public benefit. We do not advocate going into debt to fund recurrent expenditure – to the contrary. Any debt or commitments must not impact negatively on the provision of core services that the community is entitled to expect the state to provide.

The decision to go into temporary deficit should not be taken lightly, and requires an accompanying action plan that details how the budget will return to surplus as soon as it is economically responsible to do so. Hence our revised fiscal strategy of maintaining a surplus on a six-year rolling average basis.

We are cautious on the recently announced extension of the period to extinguish the state's unfunded superannuation liability, believing that such extensions are simply passing the buck to future generations.

Debt in Government Businesses and State Owned Companies

The levels of debt in Hydro Tasmania continue to be of significant concern. The Greens are critical of the deliberately confusing messages from the State Labor government to Tasmanians regarding the debt situation. Much trumpeting of the reduction of net general government debt is readily misconstrued to equate a reduction of all debt, we believe deliberately.

The Greens supported the spending constraints and fiscal rectitude necessary to bring down the high levels of debt that were a legacy of the Gray government, and have continued to support the strategy. This has received no acknowledgement from the government, who have been focused on political point scoring on the issues, to the extent of rewriting history and implying some other policy position of the Greens.

Hydro

The debt situation of the Hydro has not been resolved by the most recent equity transfer of \$220 million from Transend (agreed by the House of Assembly on 28 May 2008). As observed in the *Ernst & Young Report* into the capital structure of Hydro and Transend, factors weakening Hydro Tasmania's financial position, in addition to low rainfall and decreased dam storage levels, are:

"A highly contracted position in the Tasmanian market coupled with low contracted prices for large customers and high energy prices in the National Electricity Market..."; "Increasing capital expenditure requirements on core hydro-electric assets as they approach midlife."¹

We await evidence in the State Budget that Treasury has acted on the recommendation that any capital restructuring of these two Government Owned Companies will be viewed as part of the State's overall funding program for the next five years, and not in isolation. Some power prices charged under Tasmanian bulk electricity supply contracts are too low (as argued by the Greens for decades) and fail to allow us to share in rises in the world price of energy and/or the world price of zinc etc. Both Labor and Liberal governments have signed contracts where Tasmanians take all the supply risk (hence Basslink) but the price doesn't change to reflect changes in the world price of energy. Although the contracts are secret, we can deduce there must be at best only limited escalation clauses to reflect changes in the world price of energy. Furthermore, too much of our power is contracted to these low paying bulk users.

It is past time to acknowledge and act upon the need to renegotiate bulk power contracts in line with prices and pricing practices in the national market.

¹ Ernst & Young, "Financial and Strategic Review of Hydro Tasmania's Capital Structure and Investment Funding Requirements," Report to Hydro Tasmania, May 2008; pg 4.

Forestry Tasmania

In relation to the 20 year Wood Supply Agreement (LTPSA) for Gunns' pulp mill, supported by Premier Bartlett despite his 'line in the sand' commitment to end government support for the mill if construction had not commenced by November 2008, we note the comments of Associate Professor Graeme Wells in his contribution to the Tasmanian Roundtable for Sustainable Industries Project:

"(i) **Distribution of price risk:** *Insufficient information is available to assess the distribution of price risk between the two parties to the contract.*

(ii) **Floor prices:** *If CPI inflation averages 2.5% p.a. (the mid-point of the Reserve Bank target range) over the 20 year life of the agreement, the LTPSA provides for a fall in the real floor price of both native forest and plantation hardwood.*

(iii) **Average realised prices:** *On the basis of FT forecasts of average selling prices over the life of the contract, it is likely that achieved average selling prices of hardwood pulpwood will fall in real terms over the life of the contract. Were that performance to be mirrored by average selling prices for the remaining 1.3m tonnes of sustainable FT annual harvest (i.e. wood supply not covered by the LTPSA), it is likely that the rate of return on FT assets will fall over time.*

(iv) **5-year contract renegotiation:** *There are two significant ambiguities in the LTPSA, relating to FT rate of return on equity and the possible alternative use of the FT estate as carbon sink forest. Resolution of these ambiguities would help reduce sovereign risk under the contract."*²

In this context, and in the knowledge that Forestry Tasmania has taken on a part ownership of the Ta Ann New Wood venture, we remain concerned that Forestry has increased its borrowings in recent years without a clear indication of their medium to long term financial strategy. How will repayments be made in circumstances in which declining returns are increasingly likely?

² Associate Professor Graeme Wells, "comments on the Forestry Tasmania/Gunns Limited Long Term Pulpwood Supply Agreement," November 2007; pg 2.

Housing Debt

Tasmania's substantial debt owed to the Commonwealth under the Commonwealth State Housing Agreement is an issue that must be resolved. Every year that the debt remains, a significant proportion of housing funds supplied from Canberra must be paid back to them to cover debt repayments of \$17 million per annum. The impact on the capacity of Tasmania to supply sufficient public housing and other forms of affordable housing to meet the overwhelming demand is adverse. The Greens propose another possible resolution, should the Commonwealth – State negotiations fail to speedily resolve this outstanding issue.

Our suggestion is to transfer the Housing debt to the Consolidated Fund, as occurred in the early 1990s under Labor in relation to Forestry Commission debt. We hasten to add that a study would need to be undertaken to determine the feasibility and implications of this possible new course, including the impact on net general government debt.

Taxation and Charges

Tasmania has a relatively narrow tax base with payroll tax and duties (property conveyances, motor vehicle sales, etc) providing roughly two thirds of state-based taxation revenue. These taxes are very vulnerable to the current downturn in the economy.

To consolidate our transition to a clean, green and clever economy, the Greens would, over time, reposition taxation demand to encourage more environmentally sensitive and efficient use of our resources. This would ensure the full long term cost of pollution and environmental impact is paid when the causal activity occurs, rather than being externalized to future generations.

The current taxation system is biased towards taxing employment income whilst lightly taxing pollution and raw materials. With carbon emissions trading, that income could be used to drive the tax burden from employment to pollution. The Tasmanian Greens aim to make a reduction in payroll tax feasible.

It has long been our contention that Tasmania wrongly subsidises extractive, environmentally damaging industries, counter to the necessary move towards a modern and sustainable economy that is clean, green and clever.

The insignificant return on equity of Forestry Tasmania is unacceptable and fails to reflect costs, the erosion of natural values, and the existence of other viable forest-based industries and income streams. For example, carbon sequestration could become a live proposition for earning income. The Greens would require a 6% return on equity from Forestry Tasmania.

Duties on insurance policies reduce the incentive for business to carry adequate insurance and a reduction in some duties will be considered.

Pokies continue to cause unacceptable social damage resulting from their expansion through the community over the decade of Labor in government. The Tasmanian Greens would begin a reduction of pokies in pubs and clubs. Consequently we would forego revenue proportional to the decrease in poker machines.

Chapter 2. Public Sector Savings

Public Sector Savings

Public Service

There is no doubt that the global recession has had a significant impact upon the Tasmanian economy and responsible economic management involves exploring potential options for savings to be made to current expenditure on public sector wages. The Greens are committed to a process of consultation with public sector unions and other stakeholders in order to meet this unique challenge.

The Bartlett government's failure to consult with public sector workers and their unions, the abolition of the *Department of Environment, Parks, Heritage and the Arts* (not supported by the Greens), and job losses via the euphemism of 'vacancy control', are all symptoms of a government acting without any concern for the welfare of its employees, its communities and its citizens.

The Greens believe that significant savings can be made without losing a single job in the public sector and retaining all existing community services.

We have consistently proposed that the government conduct a plebiscite of all public sector employees to gauge whether workers would consider a small, temporary reduction in work hours as opposed to suffering outright job losses.

"You could avoid the enormous social cost of unemployment by cutting hours for everyone now employed, but we need some leadership to achieve this philanthropic outcome."

Dr. Bruce Felmingham, *The Mercury*, 1 Feb 2009; pg 19.

The Greens believe that the benefits to Tasmania of a temporary reduction in work hours far outweigh the costs of the Bartlett government's mooted indiscriminate slashing of the public sector. The Greens proposal would save jobs across the State, retain our pool of skilled workers and maintain services in our community. Additionally, it would bolster public sector morale, benefit the health of employees and contribute to a more productive public sector. The proposal would also see improvements to the work-life balance of public sector employees, affording them more time to spend with their families, and building their communities.

In addition to the obvious benefits to public sector employees both individually and en masse, the Greens proposal also reflects contemporary management practice within the private sector.

A truly future-focussed government would appreciate that the retention of skilled workers is crucial to the State being 'recovery ready' once the economy moves out of recession. The Greens proposal is focussed on future growth through retaining our skilled workers and resources in preparation for expansion, future investment by maintaining superannuation contributions at pre-adjusted rates, and future savings by avoiding the hidden costs of recruitment and training once the economy recovers, as would be the inevitable outcome of a policy of slashing our skilled public sector employees.

"About half of standard full-timers (working 35-47 hours) would prefer to work less"

**Hawke Research Institute for Sustainable Societies,
University of South Australia; Work, Life & Workplace
Culture; The Australian Work and Life Index 2008,
July 2008, pg 43.**

Public Sector Savings cont'

The Greens' proposal would save the state government \$94,542,808 per annum.

Using figures published in the *Office of the State Service Commissioner Annual Report 2007-2008* and both the *Tasmanian State Service and Health and Human Services (Tasmanian State Services) Awards*, the Greens have modelled the potential annual savings generated through this proposal alone. The following tables provide projected annual savings available through a temporary 2.5 hour reduction of the standard work week across the entire public sector.

TASMANIAN STATE SERVICE EMPLOYEES (EXCLUSIVE OF DHHS)

POTENTIAL BUDGET SAVING THROUGH 2.5 HOUR REDUCTION IN STATE SERVICE WORK WEEK									
Statistics from OSSC 2007/08 annual report (figures @ 30 June 2008); 36.75 hour work week pursuant to Part VI(1)(a) of <i>Tasmanian State Service Award</i>									
TSS (non-DHHS) headcount		18,453							
TSS (non-DHHS) FTE		14,774.43							
SALARY CALCULATIONS									
Range	Range mean	TSSA adjusted range mean*	% of TSS (non-DHHS)	FTE	Hourly rate	Annual salary (36'45" week)	Annual salary (34'15" week)	Annual saving per employee	Across group
0-19,999	10,000	10,556	0.22%	32.50	\$5.52	\$10,556.00	\$9,837.90	\$718.10	\$23,340.79
20,000 - 29,999	25,000	26,390	0.24%	35.46	\$13.81	\$26,390.00	\$24,594.76	\$1,795.24	\$63,656.69
30,000 - 39,999	35,000	36,946	20.86%	3,081.95	\$19.33	\$36,946.00	\$34,432.67	\$2,513.33	\$7,745,957.86
40,000 - 49,999	45,000	47,502	17.58%	2,597.34	\$24.86	\$47,502.00	\$44,270.57	\$3,231.43	\$8,393,134.18
50,000 - 59,999	55,000	58,058	18.30%	2,703.72	\$30.38	\$58,058.00	\$54,108.48	\$3,949.52	\$10,678,409.24
60,000 - 69,999	65,000	68,614	13.58%	2,006.37	\$35.90	\$68,614.00	\$63,946.38	\$4,667.62	\$9,364,959.60
70,000 - 79,999	75,000	79,170	21.99%	3,248.90	\$41.43	\$79,170.00	\$73,784.29	\$5,385.71	\$17,497,631.83
80,000 - 89,999	85,000	89,726	3.25%	480.17	\$46.95	\$89,726.00	\$83,622.19	\$6,103.81	\$2,930,859.96
90,000 - 99,999	95,000	100,282	1.08%	159.56	\$52.48	\$100,282.00	\$93,460.10	\$6,821.90	\$1,088,529.35
100,000+	110,000	116,116	2.90%	428.46	\$60.76	\$116,116.00	\$108,216.95	\$7,899.05	\$3,384,413.86
								Estimated total annual salary saving	\$61,170,893.35
NB: Hourly rates derived from mean figure within salary range									
*Does not take into account annual increments - figure is a calculation of salary + 4.0% (1/12/08) + 1.5% (1/3/09) pursuant to TSSA									

Public Sector Savings cont'

TASMANIAN STATE SERVICE EMPLOYEES (ONLY DHHS)

POTENTIAL BUDGET SAVING THROUGH 2.5 HOUR REDUCTION IN STATE SERVICE WORK WEEK									
Statistics from OSSC 2007/08 annual report (figures @ 30 June 2008); 38 hour work week pursuant to Part VII(1)(a) of the <i>Health and Human Services (Tasmanian State Service) Award</i>									
DHHS headcount		10,507							
DHHS FTE		8,334.38							
SALARY CALCULATIONS									
Range	Range mean	HAHSA adjusted range mean*	% of DHHS	FTE	Hourly rate	Annual salary (38'00" week)	Annual salary (35'30" week)	Annual saving per head	Across group
0-19,999	10,000	10,556	0.22%	18.34	\$5.34	\$10,556.00	\$9,861.53	\$694.47	\$12,733.62
20,000 - 29,999	25,000	26,390	0.24%	20.00	\$13.36	\$26,390.00	\$24,653.82	\$1,736.18	\$34,728.05
30,000 - 39,999	35,000	36,946	20.86%	1,738.55	\$18.70	\$36,946.00	\$34,515.34	\$2,430.66	\$4,225,824.34
40,000 - 49,999	45,000	47,502	17.58%	1,465.18	\$24.04	\$47,502.00	\$44,376.87	\$3,125.13	\$4,578,892.80
50,000 - 59,999	55,000	58,058	18.30%	1,525.19	\$29.38	\$58,058.00	\$54,238.39	\$3,819.61	\$5,825,629.63
60,000 - 69,999	65,000	68,614	13.58%	1,131.81	\$34.72	\$68,614.00	\$64,099.92	\$4,514.08	\$5,109,074.29
70,000 - 79,999	75,000	79,170	21.99%	1,832.73	\$40.07	\$79,170.00	\$73,961.45	\$5,208.55	\$9,545,871.51
80,000 - 89,999	85,000	89,726	3.25%	270.87	\$45.41	\$89,726.00	\$83,822.97	\$5,903.03	\$1,598,937.10
90,000 - 99,999	95,000	100,282	1.08%	90.01	\$50.75	\$100,282.00	\$93,684.50	\$6,597.50	\$593,849.58
100,000+	110,000	116,116	2.90%	241.70	\$58.76	\$116,116.00	\$108,476.79	\$7,639.21	\$1,846,374.42
								Estimated total annual salary saving	\$33,371,915.33
NB: Hourly rates derived from mean figure within salary range									
*Does not take into account annual increments - figure is a calculation of salary + 4.0% (1/12/08) + 1.5% (1/3/09) pursuant to HAHSA									

COMBINED FIGURES FOR THE PUBLIC SERVICE AS A WHOLE

SUMMARY OF ESTIMATED ANNUAL SAVING	
TSS (non-DHHS) saving	\$61,170,893.35
DHHS saving	\$33,371,915.33
TOTAL ANNUAL	\$94,542,808.67

50% Cut to the Additional Salary Payable to Political Leaders and Parliamentary Officers

The Greens have also proposed to cut by 50% the loadings paid to political leaders, including the Premier, Deputy Premier, Ministers, the Leader of the Opposition and the Leader of the Greens.

This proposal was voted down by in the House of Assembly by Labor and Liberal MPs.¹

¹ House of Assembly debate, Wednesday 27 May 2009.

The Greens' proposal would have saved \$500,000 per annum.

COMPARISON BETWEEN THE CURRENT PROVISIONS & THE SAVINGS TO BE MADE UNDER THE GREENS' PROPOSAL					
Members Basic Salary (gazetted 2 July 2008): is \$108,242					
Officers' Salaries (in addition to basic salary)	%	Additional Amount		Greens' Proposed 50% Cut	50% cut to Additional Amount
Premier	115%	\$124,478		57.5%	\$62,239
Deputy Premier	82%	\$88,758		41	\$44,379
Minister	70%	\$75,769		35%	\$37,884.50
Secretary to Cabinet	30%	\$32,473		15%	\$16,236.50
Speaker	35%	37,885		17.5%	\$18,942.50
Chairman of Committees	20%	21,648		10%	\$10,824
Leader of the Opposition	70%	75,769		35%	\$37,884.50
Deputy Leader of the Opposition	35%	\$37,885		17.5%	\$18,942.50
Leader Minority Party	35%	\$37,885		17.5%	\$18,942.50
Government Whip	6%	\$6,495		3%	\$3,247.50
Opposition Whip	6%	\$6,495		3%	\$3,247.50

SAVINGS TO BE MADE

Premier	\$63,239	
Deputy Premier	\$44,379	\$106,618
Ministers	$\$37,884.50 * 7 = \$265,191.50$	
<i>Subtotal</i>		<u>\$371,809.50</u>
Speaker	\$18,942.50	
Chair of Committees	\$10,824	
Leader of the Opposition	\$37,884.50	
Deputy Leader of Opposition	\$18,942.50	
Government Whip	\$3,247.50	
Opposition Whip	\$3,247.50	
Leader Minority Party	\$18,942.50	
Cabinet Secretary	\$16,236.50	
<i>Subtotal</i>		<u>\$128,2567.50</u>
TOTAL		\$500,077

The Greens' costed proposals for public sector savings would save the Tasmanian taxpayer a total of approximately \$95 million per annum.

Chapter 3. Investment Priorities: Expenditure

This chapter outlines extra spending that the Greens believe must be allocated additional to that provided for in Forward Estimates.

Clean Green and Clever Economy - Part 1

Investing in Re-Positioning the 'Recovery Ready' Economy Employment and Skills Ready

Green Jobs Taskforce \$5 million

A Green Jobs Taskforce would unite Tasmania around a common vision and jobs creation strategy. The Greens would create a Green Jobs Taskforce with representatives from the business, academic and community sectors, to advise on how to maximise opportunities created by the inevitable transition into a low carbon economy that is currently underway at a global level.

This would position Tasmania in 'recovery ready' mode, and acknowledge that job creation opportunities will overwhelmingly be based on the principles of sustainability that will underpin the world's next economic boom. A Green Jobs taskforce could see Tasmania becoming a global leader in the transition into the low carbon economy, and move to ensure that Tasmanian workers can be skilled-up in order to make the most of the new industry opportunities.

Aspects of the Green Jobs Taskforce would include:

- **A dedicated Minister for Employment** – to ensure that Tasmania does not slide back into the dangerous trap of long-term unemployment.
- **A dedicated Minister for ICT** – to ensure that the ICT sector has a voice in Cabinet; to maximise the recent Federal boost to the state's high-speed broadband capacity; and to address the current situation which sees Tasmania

ranking last in the nation when it comes to connectivity.

- **Establish a Green Business Attraction Fund** - target green businesses from other States and overseas which are based in the low-carbon sector to relocate to Tasmania. Offer incentive packages to attract those businesses to Tasmania, and invest in growing Tasmanians green-collar jobs.
- **Immediately commission a Skills Audit** - to be conducted across all sectors in Tasmania to identify the skills existing in people working in vulnerable industries and match them up, or retrain, to ensure we have the skills necessary to meet the growing call for low-emissions jobs.
- **Implement the Tasmanian Greens' Forestry Transition Strategy** – create a jobs rich, non-conflictive forest industry that provides up to 895 new jobs, 720 in the timber industry and 175 in tourism (*see the end of this section for further details*).
- **NGO Employment Support Services** - fund community service organisations to provide pre, post and ongoing employment support to those facing barriers to securing employment.

Meaningful Work Employment Package -

Local Employment Initiatives \$2 million

Employment opportunities are central to developing and empowering Tasmania's regional

communities. The Greens will establish Local Employment Initiatives to generate employment by facilitating business start-ups; training; addressing disincentives such as transport; and networking in partnership with the private sector.

Partnerships to Jobs Program \$1.5 million

The Tasmanian Greens believe that funding needs to be allocated to the continuation of the Partnerships to Jobs Program to support community based ventures aimed at assisting disadvantaged and marginalised Tasmanians and to invest in building partnerships between local community groups, local industry and government to encourage and support both jobseekers and employers.

Community Partnerships to Learning Program \$1 million

The Greens will establish a Community Partnerships to Learning Program based on the Partnerships to Jobs program, in order to support community based training and learning opportunities for low income and disadvantaged Tasmanians.

Volunteer Support \$2.2 million

The Greens would allocate a new portfolio responsibility – Minister for Volunteering – to ensure that the interests of Tasmania’s 131,000 active volunteers are appropriately represented in all Tasmanian Government policy decision making.

The Greens would establish and resource a whole-of-government Volunteering Task Force to provide advice to government on ways in which government agencies can participate in the strengthening of volunteering in Tasmania. The proposed Task Force should include representatives from government agencies and the not-for-profit sector:

\$100,000.

The Greens would, as a key component of the Social Inclusion Strategy, fund a “Volunteering: The Tasmanian Way” campaign featuring prominent Tasmanians as exemplars of the naturalness of volunteering:

\$100,000

The Greens would review the *Associations Incorporation Act 1964* with a view to requiring all Associations to provide evidence that they have acquired appropriate public liability and volunteers personal accident insurance. The Greens would also ensure that Tasmanian Government recurrent or project-based funding of non-government organisations should stipulate that the recipient organisation must obtain appropriate volunteers insurance.

no cost.

The Greens would increase the funds disbursed by the Tasmanian Community Fund, with these additional funds to be earmarked for the costs of volunteering, reimbursement of volunteers’ out-of-pocket expenses and volunteers insurance.

Skilling Up for Recovery Job Seeker Education and Training \$13.25 million

Provide further education and training opportunities to job seekers in areas of disadvantage by:

- Funding further LINC-style training hubs and locating them in the areas of most need:
\$11,000,000
- Increasing funding to enable the delivery of accredited training programs in community based settings:
\$1,000,000
- Allocating increased resources for the development of local area-based partnerships to generate local employment and training pathways:
\$1,000,000
- Ensuring those in need have access to childcare while undertaking training.
\$250,000

Employment Strategy for Ageing Population

\$500,000

It is pressing that Tasmania address the impacts of the transition to an ageing population on employment. Strategies must be developed for retention of talented young people in the state, and to attract skilled workers. Expanding options for continued part time participation in employment of older Tasmanians, and to utilise their skills and experience is also required.

Mature Age Traineeships

Cost Neutral

Address skills shortages and assist Tasmania's most disadvantaged job seekers by developing a quota to ensure at least 20% of new traineeships in the state service are targeted to mature aged job seekers.

Youth/School Leaver Traineeships

Cost Neutral

Address skills shortages and assist Tasmania's most disadvantaged job seekers by developing a quota to ensure at least 20% of new traineeships in the state service are targeted to youth and school leaver job seekers.

Community Support

\$800,000

The Greens would fund community based organisations aimed at working with disadvantaged young people to secure and retain employment options.

Green Plumbing Program

\$500,000

There is currently a lack of sufficient plumbers in Tasmania who are trained to install solar hot water systems. The Greens will fund a framework to ensure that our trades people are adequately trained to respond to the increases in demand in the areas of climate change, including the thermal insulation of plumbing components, grey water

recycling, solar technologies, cold release valves and various other new technologies that are designed to save water and energy.

Business plan for a College of Stonemasonry & Restoration

\$250,000

Tasmania has the greatest collection of historic buildings in the country and these will require ongoing refurbishment and restoration, to do this there is a need to have qualified and skilled tradespeople to undertake the work. Already there is a shortage of skilled people and the situation will deteriorate further as existing people retire.

There is the opportunity to establish a college that will train the workforce for all of Australia and it could be located in one of several rural towns such as Ross, Oatlands, Richmond or New Norfolk.

Business Plan for a Centre of Excellence for Mine Remediation

\$250,000

Mines all over the world, many of which have been abandoned continue to pollute the surrounding areas and particularly rivers below them. There is a huge need to develop a trade of people who are specialist in remediation of mines to reduce the often serious problems of Acid Mine Drainage and heavy metal contamination.

Queenstown, with its legacy of damage from the Mt Lyell and other mines is the perfect place to establish a Centre of Excellence that can research and develop techniques for cleaning up mines, it should be possible to make the centre self funding if a process can be developed to extract the minerals from the water of the Queen River.

Improving Tasmania's Competitive Edge

Review of the Taxation System

Cost Neutral – internal Treasury resources

Currently the Tasmanian Government taxes job creation via its pay roll tax regime. The Greens would fund a review of Tasmania's taxation system with a view to relieving the taxation burden on socially positive outcomes such as jobs, and replacing it with a tax on socially negative outcomes such as pollution.

Review of Power Pricing

Cost Neutral

The Greens would establish a review into concessions to counteract the alarming 20 per cent increase in concession holders being disconnected from their Aurora Energy accounts, from the same period last year.

The Greens would provide assistance to retrofit houses to provide real energy conservation that would reduce power bills for people doing it tough. We would urgently review how to turn these figures around and ensure that as the economic times get harder, these people are not abandoned.

Renewable Energy for the Bass Strait Islands

\$100, 000

The Greens would conduct a feasibility study into installing renewable energy infrastructure on King Island and Flinders Island, in order to provide sustainable energy resources for the Bass Strait Islands in a move towards gaining power price parity between mainland Tasmania and the islands.

Devonport Airport Service

Cost Neutral

The Greens would commit to adopting a transparent process should there be plans to

sell the Devonport Airport. Any potential sale of the Devonport airport would be done through an open and transparent process that provides a level playing field for all potential bidders, and to ensure that the public is confident that the best decision was arrived at.

The public has a rightful expectation that their elected Member's main priority would be ensuring that the best decision is made on behalf of the community, not that the best deal is struck for one corporate entity.

Investing in Critical Recovery Ready Infrastructure

Northern Suburbs and North West Coast Passenger Rail

\$500,000

With the twin imperatives of poor public transport speeds and increasing fuel prices it is leaving those living in the northern suburbs and on the North West Coast at a disadvantage in accessing jobs and services.

Passenger trains would compliment existing bus transport and could reduce travel times and reduce costs for many people; the initial funding is for a comprehensive feasibility study to determine an implementation plan.

Trains for Tourism and Heritage

\$1 million

There is a fantastic opportunity to grow tourism in the Derwent Valley on the back of the cruise ship visits to Hobart, all that is missing is seed funding to bring the rolling stock and line back into operation

To provide a base level of funding to get the Derwent Valley Railway Preservation Society as an operating commercial enterprise, funding will be for upgrading the Derwent Valley Railway Line, refurbishment of locomotives and rolling stock.

Investigation of King Island Abattoir Security

\$100,000

An investigation into the future security of the King Island Abattoir reviewing the option for the King Island community and the workers of the JB Swift abattoir to form a co-operative to operate the meat works facility. This proposal would empower the community and give workers some control over their destiny and employment security in the event of potential future business collapse.

The investigation would establish the potential footings for a King Island Co-operative to be formed to run the abattoir. It would keep jobs on the island, it would keep the processing skills and knowledge in the community, it would give security to stock producers, and it would value-add to the Island's already impressive marketing Brand.

Interstate co-operatives include the Western Australian Meat Marketing Co-operative Limited (WAMMCO) which has been trading since 1999, and the Grafton Abattoir Co-operative in New South Wales.

Investing in Tasmania's Reputation

Tourism Marketing Campaign

\$6 million

Tasmania's tourism industry needs extra support to meet the significant competitive challenges created by the global recession. The Greens believe the tourism sector, as the major employer in Tasmania, is entitled to expect extra support from government to strengthen the industry's capacity to reach national and global markets. The Greens support the Tasmanian Tourism Industry Council's call for a major funding boost for the marketing and promotion of Tasmania as a globally unique visitor destination.

Brand Analysis

\$100,000

One of Tasmania's most valuable strategic advantages is our international reputation as a clean, green and clever island. This brand image creates and increases business opportunities for many of our most important industries, yet we

have no real grasp of its value or how to best manage and promote our brand. Most major corporations carefully analyse their brand and its value as a regular process. A professional consultancy to provide a conclusive analysis of the factors that contribute to the Tasmanian brand, and assess its real value, will allow Tasmanian businesses to maximise the advantage our brand provides to their bottom line.

Workplace Relations Reform Package Implement Industrial Manslaughter Laws

\$100,000

Nationally, more people die at work than on the roads, but current Tasmanian statutes make it difficult or impossible for a manslaughter conviction to be successfully prosecuted for a culpable workplace death.

The Greens believe no Tasmanian worker should have to risk death or serious injury as a result of the criminal negligence of their employer. We would therefore draft and introduce Industrial Manslaughter legislation to encourage safe workplaces and provide justice to families of Tasmanian workers killed in their workplace as a result of employer negligence.

Workplace Safety Inspectors

\$750,000

Dissatisfaction with Tasmania's worker's compensation system has also highlighted an unacceptable level of injury in the workplace, and a failure of some employers to recognise and rectify unsafe working conditions. The limit on access to common law actions for negligence may be exacerbating the situation. Some employers also fail to comply with industrial awards or agreements, or to pay superannuation contributions. It is not acceptable to rely on individual workers to raise or report breaches.

Additional funding to enable increased monitoring and enforcement is vital and has previously been requested by Unions Tasmania. The Greens will increase the allocation to Workplace Safety for the purpose of employing additional workplace inspectors.

Forest Industry Transition Forest Contractor Rescue Package

Cost Neutral

The Tasmanian Greens recognise that Tasmanian forest contractors labouring under oppressive contract conditions are being stretched to breaking point by the downturn in demand for woodchips and the refusal of the Bartlett Labor Government to support Fair Contracts legislation to assist them through their current crisis.

In 2005, 30% of forest contractors were identified by Paul Cooke and Associates as facing financial ruin due to harsh and oppressive contracts foisted on them by Gunns Ltd and Forestry Tasmania and deliberately contracting for over-capacity in the industry.

Since then analysis by Mr Brian Stafford (Industry Edge) has revealed that the situation has deteriorated still further.

As part of the Greens Alternative Budget 2009-10, \$20 million will be provided to fund a **Forest Contractor Rescue Package** for those contractors most at risk, to allow them to exit the industry with dignity and allay the anxiety and suffering of those in the grip of debt and the prospect of their quotas being further cut by the big timber companies.

The \$20 million buy out package would be funded through an increased royalty on woodchips which makes the \$20 million rescue package cost-neutral in the long term. The package enables forest contractors to exit the industry with dignity, is cost-neutral and conserves for future generations the high conservation value forests that would otherwise be cleared.

North East Diversified Wood Processing and Training Mill \$100,000

The Tasmanian Greens recognise that the best way to provide long term sawmilling jobs in the Scottsdale region is to provide a diversified wood processing and training facility that will process the greatest variety of timber including hardwood, softwood and minor species craft wood that is currently burnt or wasted after wood chipping operations.

To this end the Greens propose funding a \$100 000 feasibility study into the establishment of a diversified wood processing and training mill, which would feature the unique Radial sawmilling technology which Kim Booth MP (ex-sawmiller) brought to Scottsdale last year, through a presentation hosted by the NE Chamber of Commerce

It has been identified that a large percentage of logs currently going straight to the woodchip mills actually contain valuable timber that can create jobs and far higher dollar returns if milled using cutting edge technology such as the Radial milling technique.

In view of this fact, Forestry Tasmania would be requested to give first priority to any log in the woodchip stream at woodchip royalty to the centre's operation.

The Greens believe a North East Diversified Wood Processing and Training Mill would provide vital skills training in a wide variety of value adding applications for the north east timber resource, creating jobs and industries around the hardwood, softwood and minor species craft wood available.

Forest Transition Strategy

\$92 million over 5 years.

Redirect Community Forest Agreement Funds contribution of the Tasmanian Government, and apply to the Greens initiative outlined in "Tasmania's Forests: The Way Forward – A Forest Transition Strategy to Protect Forests and Create Sustainable Jobs." The estimated total cost of implementing this forest transition strategy is \$92 million over 5 years.

Public opinion continues to move further in favour of protecting our pristine and old growth forests, whilst seeking a resolution of the divisive debate around jobs. The need for increased forest protection is supported by growing comprehension of climate change issues and appreciation of the important role of our forests in carbon sequestration, together with the identification of forestry and land clearing as Tasmania's largest source of carbon emissions (Tasmanian Government's Climate Change Strategy).

Our plan will provide positive environmental, social and economic outcomes and resolve Tasmania's ongoing divisive forest debate.

This greenprint for a jobs-rich, non-conflictive forest industry encompasses:

- Forest Protection and Promotion for Tourism
- High Value Native Forest Industries
- Job Creation through Plantation Processing Ventures
- Worker Training and Support
- Sustainable Communities

Summary of the forest industry funding package

FUNDED INITIATIVE	RESOURCES
Worker assistance package for retraining and re-skilling for the jobs in the restructured native timber industry.	up to \$5,000,000
Industry development to minimise the impact of changes in mill feedstock.	up to \$30,000,000
Seed funding to develop incentives for processing infrastructure to create sawn timber, veneer, particle board, and engineered products	up to \$20,000,000
High prune 14,000 hectares of existing plantations for sawlogs	\$32,000,000
Establish Specialty Timbers Commission with representatives from a broad range of interest groups. Seed funding to develop, audit and manage new Specialty Timber Zones and develop training & skills centres	\$5,000,000
Total funding package	up to \$92 million

The Greens' Forest Transition Strategy is available at:
www.tas.greens.org.au

Primary Industries: A Sustainable 'Foodbowl'

International Sustainable Agriculture Scholarship

\$25,000

The Greens will create the Tasmanian Sustainable Agriculture Scholarship, to be modelled on the Churchill Fellowship scheme. This scholarship would be open to conventional and organic growers alike, and allow for study into and experience of international innovations in sustainable agriculture. The successful applicant would participate in a structured knowledge-sharing component upon return to Tasmania.

Invest in Organics Package

According to the Department of Primary Industry, demand for organic food has increased dramatically over the past few years. Australia's organic industry is currently valued at over \$250 million and is growing at approximately 25% per year with around 40% of production destined for the export market. (Source DPIW website www.dpiw.tas.gov.au)

The organics industry has considerable potential to expand and consolidate as an integral and substantial aspect of Tasmania's agricultural sector. The Greens believe that the organic industry in Tasmania deserves a far greater attention, promotion and investment by government

Targeted additional expenditure is required to maximise Tasmania's enormous advantages in the global market for the production and export of clean, green and G.E. free food. We have yet to harness fully this potential, particularly in the area of organic agriculture.

The Greens believe that through increased, targeted funding we should be able to achieve a goal of doubling the value of the state's organics industry from the current \$9 million per annum (as at 2005) to \$18 million per annum within three years.

The Greens' additional expenditure allocation for the organic industry is in line with increased market interest in, and producer development of, organic vegetable, cereals as well as meat products.

This objective would be met by implementing two main strategies:

Organic Carrot

\$150,000

To encourage a rapid uptake in Organic conversion the Greens will provide 50% of the conversion costs to Organic certification for up to 100 producers per annum.

The Greens will deliver an incentive payment of \$500 per producer per year to encourage conversion. This payment halves the average conversion costs of \$1000 per year to \$500 per year over a three year conversion process.

The initiative would see a funding commitment of \$50 000 for three years

Organic Development Fund

\$450,000 over 3 years

In order to support and stimulate ongoing organic industry research, growth, development and marketing, the Greens will create an Organic Development Fund to complement the one funded position currently existing within DPIW (Organic Industry Development Officer). The current resourcing and focus within the department has been identified by the industry as insufficient to meet their needs.

The Organic Development Fund would supply funding for the subcontracting of specialised services where those cannot be met by current resources within the Department. This additional funding will be leveraged through the industry and the Government itself to boost the agricultural sector and the economy, especially to assist in consolidating the more fragile rural communities.

The Organic Development Fund would assist the industry in a number of areas including:

- Technical and practical assistance for fruit, vegetable, meat, dairy, viticulture producers in organic conversion
- Maximise the identified growing demand for organic vegetable, meat and cereals
- Assist in the implementation of the Organic Coalition of Tasmania's strategic plan including IT support and administrative support
- Promotion and placement of Tasmanian organic produce in regional, national and global markets
- The Organic Development fund would be funded over 3 years with a ramping up of funding set to meet increased demand as producers come online. The fund would be allocated \$100,000 in the first year \$150,000 in the second year and \$200,000 in the third year.

Animal Welfare

New Inspection Regime

\$1 million

The Greens would fund an effective animal welfare inspection regime that would carry out random inspections on animal farming operation. Current, industry self-regulation has allowed cases of horrendous animal cruelty to go on unchecked. The Greens would fund a new inspection regime to maintain high animal welfare standards in farming practices throughout the state.

Cruelty Free

Poultry Industry Transition Package

\$2 million in the first year

The Greens believe that battery hen farming should be banned due to animal welfare standards that do not meet public expectations. We will fund a package to assist the poultry industry to transition out of battery farming, and into cruelty-free poultry practices.

'Cruelty Free Eggs' Brand Promotion

\$750,000

The Greens will fund the creation of a unit within the Department of Primary Industries which will work with the poultry sector to create and promote a 'Cruelty Free Eggs' Brand, which we believe will capitalise on consumer demand for cruelty free eggs and allow Tasmanian eggs to be sold at a premium into Tasmanian and interstate markets.

Clean Green and Clever Economy - Part 2

Maximising Opportunities in a Carbon-constrained World

Climate Change Cool Investment: Economic & Social Infrastructure

Integrated Transport Plan

\$500,000

Integrated transport planning is essential in order to maximise benefits, and minimise impacts, of the way Tasmanians move about the state. The Greens will reduce transport-related greenhouse gas emissions by funding a Statewide integrated transport plan, including setting targets for public transport patronage growth.

Public Transport Strategy - Public transport climate change initiatives:

\$12 million

The Tasmanian Greens would reduce emissions by funding a comprehensive public transport strategy, that includes:

- Funding the construction of additional bus and bicycle lanes for more convenient, greenhouse friendly commuting.
- Completing the *State Public Transport Strategy* with full emission analysis of all options to improve Tasmania's inadequate public transport system.
- Immediately beginning the conversion of Metro bus fleet to natural gas.
- Beginning to implement all recommendations of the March 2003 Joint Standing Committee Report, *The*

Use of Compressed Natural Gas as a Vehicle Fuel in Tasmania.

- Increasing MTT funding to extend services without increasing fares, and enabling Metro buses to transport bicycles as part of commuter service delivery.

Southern Outlet Park and Ride Facility

\$5 million

To get serious about addressing traffic congestion on Hobart's Southern Outlet the Greens would invest in modern, flexible public transport, and direct funds into a world-class park and ride facility. Modern, convenient and flexible public transport is the answer brought about by integrated planning. Kingston is perfectly placed to become a shining example of how a well-planned public transport solution can resolve traffic problems.

Registration Discounts for Low Emission Vehicles

\$2 million

The Tasmanian Greens would fund a program that encourages take-up of low emission vehicles by providing reductions in registration costs for energy efficient vehicles.

Driving Hybrid Cars

\$400, 000

It is vital for government to show leadership on energy savings and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The Greens would require a percentage of the government car fleet to be

replaced, as they come up for renewal, with hybrid cars.

\$400,000 would be set aside as top-up funding to compensate where conversion requires additional capital expenditure. A strategic analysis on which vehicles would provide immediate energy savings and greenhouse gas emission reductions would also be undertaken. A life-cycle analysis on operating costs and environmental benefits will also be required.

Bike Lane Strategy Development

\$1 million

Develop a State-wide Bike lane Strategy that identifies bike priority roads throughout Tasmania that link key settlements and enable the permanent creation of a cycling trail for bike tourism.

Priority will be given to painting lanes on all roads deemed wide enough to have a safe bike lane and a program to edge seal, with a light seal, those roads that are not wide enough.

More Cycling Infrastructure

\$500,000

The Greens would work with local government to create further bicycle parking in urban areas, to encourage emission free travel to the city/business areas. The Greens would also implement a whole-of-government approach to retrofitting government owned buildings with appropriately located showers and lockers to facilitate a ride-to-work culture.

Park and Ride Feasibility Studies

\$100,000

The Greens would fund a feasibility study to determine demand for, and the viability of, park and ride public transport systems in and around Tasmania's urban population centres.

Climate Change: Efficiency and Innovation

More Efficient Homes: Subsidies for Energy & Water Efficiency, and Solar Installations

\$5 million

The Tasmanian Greens would subsidise households to encourage take-up of products that assist in reducing the effects of climate change. This program would include subsidies for the installation of water saving devices and solar hot water systems. This project is also designed to reduce the energy consumption of existing homes by offering a \$500 grant toward each of a solar hot water system, a rainwater tank, insulation and/or double glazed windows, with the balance to be split between a 50% payment by the owner and a 50% low interest loan that is paid by regular payments at the rate of the savings made.

Energy Efficiency Programs

\$3 million

The Tasmanian government has substantially failed to initiate and support energy efficiency programs, which are critical to reducing Tasmania's greenhouse emissions. The Greens would fund energy efficiency measures by:

- Implement and monitor energy efficiency programs in government departments and agencies.
- Establishing a mandatory energy rating system for new buildings.
- Requiring major industrial electricity consumers to implement energy efficiency programs as part of contract negotiations.
- Establishing an Energy Savings Trust and Energy Conservation Loans Scheme. This would deliver a wide-ranging program of energy conservation measures including rebates on energy bills to encourage energy conservation measures; public education programs; natural gas uptake incentives; begin conversion of

Tasmania's public transport to natural gas; and incentives for the adoption of solar technology; and production of Bio Diesel, ethanol and methanol.

- Supporting Locally Distributed Energy: including renewable energy and co-generation.
- The introduction of "Smart Meters"

Alternative to Heating Subsidies

\$5 million

The existing subsidy for heating provided by the government is inadequate as there is no long term benefit for either the householder or the government. The Greens propose to allow eligible cardholders to cash-out up to 5 years worth of the subsidy (forgoing further claims) into energy saving measures such as insulation, double glazing and installing more efficient electric heating systems.

If the subsidy is insufficient to complete the job, a loan will be available for up to half the outstanding cost and it will be paid back by at the rate of 50% of the savings that is paid via the power bill or in the case of PAYG on regular direct debits payments.

Creation of a Centre for Renewable Energy/Cooperative Research Centre for Renewable Energy Innovation in conjunction with UTAS

\$375, 000

The Greens will work with the Federal government to establish the University of Tasmania as a national leader in renewable energy research and development. The first step to achieving this aim is funding a feasibility study into the proposal.

Tasmania is in a prime position to be a global leader in developing and implementing renewable energy sources to complement energy conservation measures. This Centre would be dedicated to exploring alternatives in transport

energy usage, and research power sources such as solar and wind.

An audit is also necessary to identify opportunities for co-generation and utilisation of waste heat and gas from industry and landfill.

Climate Change: Community Preparation

Sheffield Demonstrating a Low Carbon Future

\$500,000

By focusing on getting one town to embrace low carbon technologies it will show others what can be done. Sheffield could be Tasmania's demonstration town whereby in return for support in switching to more efficient, lower carbon systems, home and business owners agree to audit and promote the benefits to other Tasmanian towns.

Community/Education programs

\$300,000

The Greens would develop public education programs to assist the Tasmanian community to mitigate and adapt to climate change. Topics would include energy and water efficiency programs, and actions to reduce personal and community emissions.

Climate Change Education

\$150,000

The Greens would develop and implement an education campaign within the Tasmanian community services industry on climate change, to assist community sector organisations to reduce their carbon emissions, and to increase the capacity of the sector to act as a conduit for information on climate change.

Study of Economic Opportunities and Challenges of Climate Change

\$100,000

The Stern report makes it clear that the cost of not acting to address Climate Change will be significantly higher than the cost of taking strong action. The Greens would commission a study into the economic opportunities that exist for Tasmania as a result of climate change, and a detailed examination of how Tasmania will be affected on an economic level due to the impacts of Climate Change.

Review of Planning System re Climate Change

\$500,000

Tasmania's planning scheme must be reviewed in order to be able to cope with the changes needed to combat Climate Change. The Greens would fund such a review, including:

- Development of planning instruments, which factor Climate Change effects such as sea level rise, changing geomorphology and increased flooding and lowland inundation into planning decisions.
- Requirement of development proposals to include comprehensive greenhouse analysis.
- Ensuring local governments planning decisions address Building Code of Australia requirements, and application of the 'precautionary principle' to proposed developments.

New Coastal Climate Change Study

\$200,000

Following from the indicative mapping in the excellent Sharples Reports, the Tasmanian Greens would fund research on the potential effects of Climate Change on coastal areas, including rising sea levels.

Primary Industry Adaptation study

\$100,000

Climate change will impact of most areas of Tasmania's primary industries sector. The Greens would fund a study to identify challenges and potential impacts, and recommend actions to position this important sector to go forward in a changed climate.

Food Miles program feasibility study

\$100,000

The Greens would work with the retail sector to investigate the introduction of a 'food miles' labelling program to allow consumers to make informed decisions about the emissions impact of the food they are purchasing.

Soil Pyrolysis Industry Feasibility Study

\$500,000

Soil pyrolysis offers significant biosequestration benefits and is a perfect fit with the strategic clean, green and clever direction that the Greens have been advocating for Tasmania over the last two decades. The Greens would fund a major feasibility study into Biochar, including a review of existing literature regarding its carbon sequestration benefits, an analysis of the potential of establishing a biochar industry in Tasmania, and recommendations on a framework to establish such an industry sector.

Study on effect of Climate Change on Invasive and Threatened Species

\$200,000

Climate Change will significantly impact on Tasmania's ecology, which will include an increased threat from invasive species, and escalated threats to threatened species. The Greens recognise the potential harm to Tasmania's biodiversity and primary industries' sector, and would fund a study into potential impacts and mitigation and adaptation strategies.

Resilient Communities

Affordable Housing for All

Despite multiple good news announcements made by the Bartlett Labor government about public housing, the latest progress report from the Department of Health, Housing and Human Services reveals that all major public housing indicators have gone backwards since 2008:¹

- The public housing waiting list has risen by 12.6%;
- The number of new applicants housed has decreased by 14.2%
- The category 1 applicants waiting period has risen from 14 to 18 weeks;
- The number of public housing tenants has dropped by 133 to 23,340.

Social welfare and community organisations have warned that the economic downturn will increase pressure on emergency services including housing and crisis accommodation.

Viable Public Housing

Ensure a viable, integrated and responsive public housing program in Tasmania by bringing forward allocated public housing funds to increase the supply of public housing, remodel existing stock so that it meets current needs, and address the maintenance backlog.

Homes People Can Afford to Live In

\$15 million

With the cost of living increasing due to new and rising fees, heating homes is going to push many on low-incomes to crisis point, especially given the Energy Regulator's recent determination to raise power prices. The Greens would invest in upgrading the insulation of all Housing Tasmania stock.

¹ *Your Health and Human Services Progress Chart: May 2009*, DHHS, p13-14.

Addressing Homelessness

\$750,000

The ABS *Counting the Homeless* report estimated there were 2,500 homeless people in Tasmania.

Funding is required to develop and implement a comprehensive homelessness strategy that delivers improved integrated housing and support services with consideration to evidence of need.

Shared Equity Expansion

\$1 million

This program takes the existing shared equity scheme and broadens it so that anyone who has land (but limited other assets), may receive assistance to build their own home on the basis of the government contributing up to \$50,000 per house which begins to be repaid after the other loan drops to a pre-agreed level.

There is a small payment for having the equity in place and this converts to interest payments once the repayments start. This is a trial program and will be expanded if successful.

Private Rental Support for Refugees

\$200,000

A small fund to specifically support refugees to maintain them in private rental when special circumstances cause a funding shortfall. This program is limited to eight weeks of total rental payments per family.

Water Tanks For All

\$1 million

To encourage the installing of water tanks to assist in water storage for those who can least afford it with a trial program paying a subsidy of \$500 each for 2000 people who qualify for a Health Care Card, limited to one payment per household.

Education

Devonport Imaginarium

\$700,000

The Tasmanian Greens would assist the Devonport City Council's operation of the Imaginarium Science Centre by incorporating the Imaginarium into the Education Department. The outcome would be a win-win-win for the community and local children, and preserve the Centre's future as an important education venue for the North-West.

Pathway Planning Officers

Cost Neutral – retain in current positions rather than redeploying

As part of the Guaranteeing Futures legislation the Greens would continue to fund the in-school positions of Pathway Planning Officers and Youth Learning Officers throughout the state in a move that confirms the significant frontline work these officers carry out with career guidance and retention, and at-risk students in the school community.

The Greens would also maintain the positions of Principal Education Officers as invaluable resources for curriculum support during the current state of change Tasmania's Education system is in. This spending would improve education outcomes by taking the pressure off individual teachers by providing adequate services and specialist resources carried out by the various officers.

Freer Farm

Cost Neutral

The Greens would establish a certain future for the Burnie training farm by retaining the whole farm as an integral place for agriculture education in the North West. Funds would be made available to buy the UTAS share in the farm so as to keep it as a true learning example of viable agricultural production. Freer farm would continue to provide top quality agricultural training crucial to the future of farming in this state.

Adult Education

\$2 million

The Greens would provide certainty over Adult Education ensuring a full range of courses are available state-wide, and that the all important numeracy, literacy and computer skills courses are still matched by art and craft, well-being, language, and adventure classes. The Greens would ensure Adult Ed opportunities are also available in rural areas and not just the major urban centres such as Hobart and Launceston.

Festival of Ideas

\$100,000

The Festival of Ideas is an important event for creating and inspiring a constructive vision for the future of Tasmania. The Greens would continue to recognise the importance of community involvement by providing the opportunity for Tasmanians to participate in events like the Festival of Ideas.

Attracting the Best Teachers to Schools in Tasmania's most Disadvantaged Communities

\$2 million in the first year

The Greens would negotiate the provision of incentives for teachers opting to work in schools in socio-economically disadvantaged communities with the aim of attracting and choosing high quality teachers. Currently, many schools in disadvantaged communities across the state have particular difficulty getting students to meet benchmark educational outcomes. These schools are not seen by our teachers as attractive places to work and as a matter of equity this must change.

Review Incentives to Attract and Retain Teachers in Isolated, Rural and Difficult to Staff Schools

\$5 million

The Greens would provide teachers in isolated schools with a 15 per cent salary loading, and those in rural and difficult-to-staff schools 7.5 per cent salary loading.

Special Educational Programs for Disadvantaged Schools

\$4,080,000

A program to provide additional resources for social, academic and behaviour programs in schools situated in socio-economically disadvantaged communities.

Curriculum Guarantee for Every Tasmanian Primary School Student

\$7,230,000

Ensuring that all Tasmanian Primary Schools are resourced to provide a full range of specialist subjects including Art, Physical Education, Music and Library time. This would also allow for the provision of Aboriginal Cultural Awareness Programs.

School Libraries and Teacher Librarians

\$7,230,000

All schools to be funded with an initial amount of \$5000 per school per year to ensure that their library collections meet Australian School Library Association (ASLA) foundation collection minimum standards, and that a component of subsequent years SRP be set aside for schools to keep collections up to date.

Additional to teaching staff quotas all schools would be provided with appropriate qualified teacher librarians and support staff to be phased in over a number of years. Training of teachers and appropriately qualified graduates in the area of teacher librarianship would commence in the 2009/10 budgetary period and continue until there were a sufficient number of teacher librarians to staff school libraries. This would be approximately fifty per year.

The Aboriginal Resource Centre, based at Elizabeth College, would also be funded to provide support material for aboriginal cultural awareness programs in schools.

Centres of Excellence in Tasmanian Secondary Schools

Cost Neutral

High schools that opt to do so would be resourced to become centres of excellence in particular curriculum areas. This would occur over subsequent budget periods beginning with the re-establishment of a high school facility at Bridgewater in the current financial year.

Aspiration Program for Aboriginal Students

\$500,000

A program based on the highly successful Western Australian Model "Follow the Dream" would be established for Aboriginal students as a vehicle for support and inspiration.

Class Sizes

\$4,360,000

The Greens would make class sizes for grades 8, 9 and 10 students hold a maximum of 25 students.

Laptop Computers for Teacher Aides

\$500,000

The Greens would spend \$500,000 towards providing additional notebook computers to schools for Support Staff use.

Positive Learning Centres

\$2,740,000

The Greens would develop Positive Learning Centres to provide resources to support students who are disengaged from school and/or have significant behaviour problems

Increase in Number of Professional Support Staff in Schools

\$2,550,000

The Greens would provide funds to employ an extra 18 school psychologists, 8 social workers and 4 speech pathologists.

Staffing and Resourcing of Library Facilities

\$700,000

The Greens would provide adequate resources for the provision of world class education access to the best quality library and information services for Academy and Polytechnic students.

Education Partnerships with Community Organisations

\$1 million

The Greens would allocate funding to enable schools to establish education programs and partnerships with community organisations to provide pathways for disengaged students to re-engage with education and training offered within the school setting or to undertake education and training opportunities within local community settings.

Supportive School Environments

\$8.6 million

The Greens would allocate funding for the development of supportive school environments through the implementation of a state education system-wide policy framework on supportive school communities. This would enable statewide coordination of support to schools, teachers and students, and ensure that schools are equipped with sufficient numbers of support staff such as speech pathologists, social workers and psychologists.

Life Skills Education Programs

\$3.25 million

Implementation of life skills education programs state-wide, in partnership with Government and non-government organisations in areas including comprehensive and sequential sexual health and relationships education from K-12, drug education and harm minimisation, and budgeting and financial literacy.

Early Learning Opportunities

\$5.5 million

Local community-based organisations funded to provide early learning opportunities for children of 'hard to reach' parents in local school and off-campus environments as a way of supporting successful transition into school.

Leadership and Governance

\$650,000

Develop the management and governance capacity of community service organisations by scoping a community services leadership, management and innovations centre of excellence, increasing access to Skills Tasmania sponsored tertiary level community service management and leadership qualifications, and increasing access to Skills Tasmania sponsored governance training and mentoring assistance program for boards and committees.

Equal Opportunities

\$500,000

Ensure that young people with disabilities, physical or intellectual, have access to a wide range of educational and training programmes within the changes to the Polytechnic Institution and the Department of Health and Human Services Disability Services reform.

Road Safety Education in Schools

\$444,000

Road Safety Education would be made compulsory for all students in year 10 in Tasmania.

Parent and Community Groups

\$200,000

Develop a format for campus based parent and community groups for senior secondary campus, particularly Hobart, Newstead, Don and Hellyer.

Environmentally Sustainable Solutions

\$200,000

Implementation of environmentally sustainable solutions, including insulation and sun shades, to reduce the requirement of air conditioning, and solar panels for electricity. Overseas studies illustrate schools can be almost self sufficient in the area of energy supply.

Literacy and Numeracy Package

\$3.7 million

Improving literacy and numeracy for Tasmanian children is a major priority area for the Greens. The Education Department is already utilising programs developed by Dr Carol Christensen at the University of Queensland, but this initiative should be expanded and accelerated. The Greens will fund an augmentation of Dr Christensen's programs so that more Tasmanian students have access to opportunities to improve their literacy level. The Greens would also establish a literacy, numeracy and IT support program in secondary schools, similar in structure to the Flying Start program in primary schools.

A Fair Go for Teacher Aides

\$3.32 million

Currently Teacher Aides, Library Technicians and other categories of school support staff are forced onto unemployment benefits during school holidays. Although not all school support staff are dissatisfied with this situation, many feel significantly undervalued and struggle to make ends meet during the school holidays. The Greens would negotiate a way of paying Support Staff an adequate wage for 52 weeks of the year.

Life Skills Program

\$1.2 million

The Tasmanian Greens believe that funding needs to be increased to deliver life skills programs inside and outside the mainstream education system.

Student Travel

\$1 million

The Greens would allocate resources to increase the provision of affordable and appropriate accommodation options for students from urban fringe, rural and remote areas; increased transport options for students in rural, remote and urban fringe area to engage in further education and training opportunities; and transport for Aboriginal Students in senior secondary to ensure enrolment, attendance and participation.

Community Partnerships to Learning Program

\$1 million

The Greens will establish a Community Partnerships to Learning Program based on the Partnerships to Jobs program, in order to support community based training and learning opportunities for low income and disadvantaged Tasmanians.

Northern Schools Flexible Programs

\$700,000

Due to the changes in the Student in the Centre funding the Northern Schools Flexible Programs are facing either closure or a substantial increase in the cost per student per term, making it difficult for smaller schools to be able to send their students. This program has seen great results with difficult children and should receive funding on its own merits rather than relying on feeder schools to supply their funding needs.

Rural Futures Report

\$400,000 over 3 years

Following the recommendations of the Rural Futures Report career pathway planning needs to be provided to 15-25 year olds by a designated project officer. Resources also need to be provided to educated young people on opportunities in this sector.

Post Year 10 Sector

\$500,000

New resources need to be allocated to the post year 10 sector to remove barriers to further education faced by disadvantaged and rural students, including by funding supported accommodation facilities.

Statewide Advocacy Services for Students with Disabilities

\$100,000

Funding to increase the capacity of advocacy services for students with disabilities needs to be provided to limit the difficulties faced by these students in Tasmania.

Retain and Extend Co-Pilots Mentoring Program

\$100,000

The Greens would ensure the continuation and extension of the Department of Education Co-Pilots mentoring program. This program has had great results pairing community members with students from disadvantaged areas, and should be extended, not terminated as has recently occurred.

Justice

Government Accountability - Restore Public Confidence

Independent Integrity Commission

\$3 million

Recent events have repeatedly demonstrated the need for an independent body to investigate allegations of wrongful behaviour - whether by politicians, government agencies, or police - and to educate the public, politicians and the public sector about ethics and appropriate behaviour.

Given the confirmation by the Director of Public Prosecutions that Tasmania lacks an independent investigative body, the Greens will increase public confidence in Tasmanian governance by creating an independent body to provide ethics education and investigate allegations of corruption.

Judicial Appointments

Cost Neutral

The Greens would extend the new protocol for Judicial Appointments so that it represents a fully transparent and non-political process.

The judicial appointments process would be made fully transparent, accountable, based on rigorous assessment and identification of the best candidate possible for a position. It would meet standards expected by the community, and implement in full the recommendations of the Legislative Council Select Committee Interim report on Public Sector Executive Appointments, which called for the reintroduction of the 2002 Protocol.

Hayes Prison Farm

\$1 million

Currently, Hayes Prison Farm has an uncertain future. The Greens would ensure funding to maintain this centre, and provide necessary infrastructure upgrades, as well as greater rehabilitation opportunities for inmates.

Human Rights Protected Tasmanian Charter of Human Rights

\$150,000

The Tasmanian Law Reform Institute has recommended a Charter of Human Rights in Tasmania, but the State Government has ignored this recommendation. The Greens would fund the development of a Charter of Human Rights, and a community information campaign to promote a culture of awareness and respect for human rights in Tasmania.

LGBTI Equity Package

\$450,000

The Greens will fund pro-active measures to improve equity outcomes for LGBTI people.

- **\$100,000:** further development and implementation of school anti-homophobia programs (Department of Education and relevant community partners)
- **\$150,000:** special fund to which community groups can apply for one-off project funding related to the Tasmania Together benchmarks (to be administered by the Department of Health and Human Services)
- **\$100,000:** development and implementation of sexual and gender diversity training programs for teachers and health workers (DoE, DHHS)
- **\$50,000:** production of educational and promotional materials for the relationships registry (Department of Justice)
- **\$50,000:** expansion and promotion of the Tasmania Police GLBT liaison program (TasPol and relevant community partners)

Community Based Youth Justice Services

\$5 million

The Tasmanian Greens would improve community-based youth justice services by funding the implementation of recommendations 4, 7, 9 and 11 of the Legislative Council Select Committee *Report into Ashley Youth Justice and Detention*.

The Greens would also reduce caseloads by increasing the number of Youth Justice case workers, increase the number of Youth Justice managers, resource a range of community based activities to support and reintegrate young offenders or young people at risk of offending, and increase the capacity for universal screening of Youth Justice clients for mental illness, drug and alcohol abuse and acquired brain injury.

The Greens would also make a significant investment into assessment and support programs for young people at high risk of offending. There must also be supported transition programs from Ashley Detention Centre back to their community, and a specific Remand/Bail service for young people in Tasmania.

Safe at Home Legislation

\$150,000

The Greens will fund an education campaign to assist new migrants to Tasmania to understand community and legal expectations regarding family violence, to promote conflict resolution and to increase the understanding of the Safe at Home Legislation.

Rural Support to tackle Family Violence

\$200,000

Family violence is still a big issue in rural communities, who require access to transport and support services in order to tackle the problems.

Community Legal Centres

\$500,000

Community legal centres do vital work, but are significantly underfunded in Tasmania. The Greens would increase funding to these important NGOs to improve the provision of legal assistance to people who could not otherwise afford it.

Health and Human Services

Community Equipment Scheme

\$1 million per annum

The Community Equipment Scheme has been failing the most vulnerable Tasmanians for many years. Urgent implementation of all the recommendations from the recent Community Development Committee Inquiry into the Scheme is required to ensure that adequate support is provided to enable people to live more independent and socially included lives. Indexing the Scheme's funding to the Health CPI would help to meet increasing demand for aids and equipment into the future.

Training Fund for Disability Workers

\$1.5 million over 3 years

While Tasmania's disability support workers recently received a modest pay rise after a decade of wage injustice, there is still a lack of emphasis on, and funding support for, the training and career pathway needs of disability support workers.

The Greens recognise the enormous contribution disability support workers make to the lives of Tasmanians living with disabilities, as well as the need to attract and retain good staff in this vital sector.

The Mental Health of Young Tasmanians

\$1 million

Young Tasmanians experiencing serious mental

distress or diagnosed with a mental illness currently have no access to an appropriate care and recovery environment. Under the current framework, these vulnerable young Tasmanians are placed in adult psychiatric institutions which, despite all the efforts of management and staff, cannot provide these children with the specialised healing support they need.

The Greens regard the current situation as unjust and potentially damaging to already vulnerable young Tasmanians. We would fund the establishment of a small, specialised unit, within either the Launceston General Hospital or the Royal Hobart Hospital, to ensure the best possible chance of recovery for these young Tasmanians, to give them the best chance at a positive, healthy life.

Parkinson's Disease

\$1.5 million over 3 year

Tasmania has the highest percentage, per head of population, of Parkinson's Disease in the nation, yet no specific State Government funding is provided to Tasmanians suffering from this incurable, degenerative disease.

There is also a critical shortage of specialised services for Tasmanians suffering from Parkinson's, with patients in the north and north-west of the State having to travel to Hobart to the Parkinson's Clinic at the Royal Hobart Hospital.

The Greens would fund the establishment of a specialist clinic in the State's north, at the Launceston General Hospital, which would enable dedicated Registered Nurses to work in the community with people suffering from Parkinson's Disease and their families.

The Environment and Human Health

\$250,000

Tasmania has the highest rate of cancer and among the poorest health outcomes on a number of indices in the nation. The Greens believe there is a strong scientific case to argue a direct link between the physical and mental health of our population and the degradation of Tasmania's

environment through unsustainable forestry and land use practices; poor planning on the part of local and state governments; mismanagement of river systems; and the aerial spraying of chemical pesticides in and around water catchments.

To better inform health and land use policy makers in the future, the Greens would provide core funding for a major research project to be undertaken by the Menzies Research Institute, examining the potential causative links between poor health outcomes and environmental degradation in Tasmania.

Chance on Main

\$400,000

Providing positive, capacity-building diversionary programs for young Tasmanians at risk of getting caught up in the criminal justice system is an investment in the future of our youth, and our communities. Through a range of work and life skills programs, 'Chance on Main' at Moonah aims to equip at risk young Tasmanians with the confidence and support necessary to turn their lives around, and to help them make a positive contribution to the wider Tasmanian community.

More broadly, the Greens believe the State Government does not provide sufficient financial support or certainty to localised programs such as Chance on Main, which are designed to ensure the social inclusion agenda for Tasmania also reaches out to at risk youth.

Adards Nursing Home

\$1 million

The Adards nursing home in Warrane established an international reputation as a leader in the care of Tasmanians suffering from Dementia with difficult behaviours. Over 17 years, the guiding philosophy of Adards was 'the soft way', turning the institution into a home like environment with highly specialised staff.

Under new management, there has been a shift into a more standard aged care approach. There is concern that not only will something of great

value in patient care be lost, but that there may be a shortage of beds for Tasmanians suffering from Dementia with difficult behaviours. As part of its response to meeting the challenges of a rapidly aging population, the State Government should provide funding to Adards to complement Commonwealth aged care funds and ensure the successful founding philosophy of 'the soft way' for high needs Dementia management is maintained.

Palliative Care Beds

\$1.5 million

Palliative care is a crucial service provided by dedicated and caring staff which provides medical relief to the terminally ill, but there is a significant shortfall in the number of palliative care beds in North and North West Tasmania. The Greens would deliver an increase in funding for four additional designated palliative care beds in the North to cover this unmet need, and two additional designated beds for North West coast residents suffering a terminal illness.

Racing and Gaming

Pokies Revenue Forgone: Break the Budget Addiction

The Greens have been fighting for over a decade to protect Tasmanians from the insidious spread of problem gambling, which has been exacerbated by Labor government's addiction to revenue, especially from poker machines (pokies). Leaked Treasury documents reveal that the Bartlett government is predicting an increased growth in gambling revenue over the 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13 financial years.

Already over the last financial year Tasmanians have lost **\$187, 077, 403.00** on pokies alone (July 2008 – April 2009 <http://www.treasury.tas.gov.au/domino/dtf/dtf.nsf/all-s-v/E768873632E0B3B5CA2575A1000E2F6C>)

Gambling Impacts Taskforce

\$1.5 million

The Greens would invest \$1.5 million into establishing a Gambling Impacts Taskforce which would immediately assess and develop implementation plans for key policy proposals identified by the Tasmanian Gaming Commission in response to the *Social and Economic Impact study into Gambling in Tasmania*, conducted by the South Australian Centre for Economic Studies, June 2008.

The TGC's Policy Response to the SACES Social and Economic Impact Study identifies as possible action reducing the caps for individual hotels and clubs who have pokies licences, and also reduce the number of those venues. This is a significant policy recognition that the pokies 2003 Deed of Agreement between the government and Federal Hotels can be altered.

The first priorities for the Gambling Impacts Taskforce will be:

Removal of Pokies from Community

Weaning the state budget off pokies revenue

by immediately administering a staggered withdrawal of pokies out of the community. This will obviously mean that there will be foregone revenue as the state's share of pokies income decreases in line with the roll-back, however the negative costs to Tasmanian families and local economies far outweigh the perceived benefits of this income.

Revenue forgone.

Develop Problem Gambling Strategy

\$1.5 million

Implementing the Tasmanian Gaming Commission's Policy Response to the SACES Social and Economic Impact Study to develop and publish a problem gambling strategy, "that provides an overarching statement to combat problem gambling and fund an integrated, whole of government approach".

Gamblers Consumers Advocate Office

\$750,000

This new Office will be an independent statutory body with responsibility for ensuring rigorous standards of consumer protection are applied across all gambling venues and mechanisms, such as appropriate and enforceable patron care and harm minimization strategies. This Office will eliminate current reliance on industry self-regulation.

Infrastructure for Community Safety

Vision Zero: Road Safety

Fixed Speed Cameras

\$1 million

With speeding being an ongoing significant factor in the crash statistics, clearly more needs to be done to curb speeding and the most cost efficient way is to introduce more fixed cameras on roads that have a demonstrated history of speeding. Since the introduction of the fixed camera at Longford several years ago the number of crashes appear to have been reduced significantly.

This proposal funds the setting up of sites that can have speed cameras plugged in for a period of days or weeks and then moved to another site with a pre installed camera box.

Road Safety - the next step

\$250,000

A package of safety related measures to assist in improving road safety including upgraded signage, changes in licensing and ownership arrangements.

Key aspects will be the introduction of signage on major roads indicating the speed vehicles are travelling at, possibly associated with speed cameras, ownership restrictions for disqualified and unlicensed drivers and a small annual deposit payable with all registration that is refundable when a vehicle is scrapped.

Portable Vehicle Speed Indicators

\$500,000

There are several portable vehicle speed indicating signs owned by Rotary clubs and these are used in limited locations, it is time that the government owned and used these machines as well to let drivers on major roads know what speed they are actually travelling at.

Supporting Learner Drivers

\$50,000

This is a limited trial to establish the need for support for predominantly young drivers who otherwise would have no access to professional tutoring due to lack of financial resources.

This program will pay for 2 driving lessons from a professional tutor for learner drivers in families that qualify for a health care card and the payment will be made directly to the tutor.

Healthy Environment

Natural Environment and Planning

Bay of Fires National Park

\$5 million

The Bay of Fires is an area of outstanding natural and cultural value to Tasmania, and a visitor destination with global appeal. The Greens recognise that the Bay of Fires needs greater protection, that visitor infrastructure is inadequate or poorly maintained, and that PWS requires more resources to manage the area. We also recognise the land's traditional owners, Tasmania's Aboriginal Community has a deep, enduring connection to the Bay of Fires, and that they must be integral to any discussion about the establishment of a Bay of Fires National Park.

The Greens believe it is possible to meet the social justice and natural conservation challenges surrounding the Bay of Fires, in a similar way to the establishment and indigenous management of the Uluru Kata Tjuta National Park.

Tarkine National Park

\$23 million

The Greens support the establishment of a Tarkine National Park to ensure this outstanding wilderness is given the protection it deserves, with appropriate funding for PWS management and sensitive visitor infrastructure. We believe the long term economic benefits that would flow into North West Tasmania as a result of the establishment of an iconic National Park make a sound investment of the \$23 M which the Bartlett Government plans to spend on a divisive loop road through the wilderness.

The details of our alternative budget for the Tarkine can be found at www.tas.greens.org.au

Tasman Track Upgrades

\$2million

With the State government proposing a \$15m private walks system that will change the focus of

national park from one being focused on nature conservation and experiencing that on well present walks with high quality facilities it will be far cheaper and of far more public benefit to put in a couple of new toilet blocks and hardened camping areas as well as repairing worn and substandard sections of the existing tracks.

The focus needs to be on the park providing the attraction and the private sector providing accommodation and meals outside the park and in existing towns rather than setting up a competitor inside the park.

Restore Skyline Tier

\$500,000

This project seeks to restore 350ha of pine plantations back to native forest between Skyline Drive and Basin Creek Road, and has the potential to provide both environmental benefits as well as employment and training for local communities.

The funding for this initiative will see six part-time employees, plus a co-ordinator be funded, as well as provide for necessary training and equipment.

Swift Parrot Recovery Program

\$500,000

The greater Wielangta area has been identified by key scientists as providing the most important remaining patch of breeding habitat for endangered Swift Parrots in Tasmania. Scientific surveys have identified repeated use of the Wielangta area for breeding. In the 2008/09 breeding season up to 80% of the entire population of Swift Parrots are believed to have been in and around Wielangta. The Greens support a visionary proposal put forward by the Wild Wielangta group to protect and restore habitat within the Critical Breeding Zone in the Wielangta area, on both public and private land in cooperation with land owners.

Planning

State Policy Authority

\$750,000

The Greens will create a State Policy Authority to create and monitor the effectiveness of State Policies, and to assist Local Government with integration of State Policies into Planning Schemes.

State Planning Unit

\$750,000

The Tasmanian Greens would provide for additional funding for the State Planning Unit to assist Local Governments to develop and review planning schemes.

Planning Advocate Position

\$200,000

The Greens will create the position of Planning Advocate to encourage and assist public participation in the planning process.

Noise Unit

\$750,000

Excessive noise impacts on the quality of life and health of many Tasmanians. Noise pollution is a serious environmental issue, and the Greens will fund a Noise Unit within the Environment Department. The unit would enforce the State Noise Policy, which the Greens would finalise as a matter of urgency. The Noise Unit would be a centralised point of contact for complaints about noise; would conduct noise mapping of hotspots and problem areas; install noise cameras and would form a rapid response team which could respond to urgent complaints.

Additional State of the Environment Report Officer

\$100,000

The Greens will fund the employment of an additional member of staff for the State of the Environment Unit within the RPDC, to assist in the timely preparation of State of the Environment Reports.

Water Efficiency for Low Income Earners

\$1 million

This proposal allows those eligible for concessions to cash-out five years of their rebates for water and sewerage charges, in return for forgoing future rebates they are able to have water saving devices installed.