

Statement on behalf of Greens Leader Nick McKim MP, to be read out at the marriage equality vigil, at UTAS on Wednesday, March 30

I'd like to thank Alex West, the Sexuality Officer of the Tasmanian University Union, for inviting me, on behalf of the Tasmanian Greens MPs, to attend this important marriage equality vigil.

I would like to have been with you this evening but unfortunately had already committed to another engagement.

However, I would be grateful if you could please read the following statement on my behalf.

To everyone attending the vigil this evening and to all supporters of marriage equality,

Love doesn't discriminate, but the law currently does, particularly in the area of marriage.

The Greens believe this is wrong and I know that most Tasmanians agree.

The Greens have long supported marriage equality and we have tabled a cognate package of same-sex marriage Bills in the State Parliament. We are committed to pursuing those Bills later this year unless the Federal Parliament has acted to deliver marriage equality.

Some have argued that only the Federal Parliament can legislate on marriage, however, the Greens have legal advice from Professor George Williams that there is no constitutional impediment to a State creating a same-sex marriage framework.

I look forward to our legislation being passed so that Tasmania can join with so many other parts of the world in delivering marriage equality.

Thank you for being here tonight, and good luck with the campaign.

Nick McKim MP
Greens Leader