



Nick McKim MP
Greens Leader
Member for Franklin

Friday, 4 March 2011

The Hon. Lara Giddings MP
Premier
Executive Building
Hobart, TAS, 7000

Dear Premier, *Lara,*

I am writing in relation to potential reforms to the process by which the base salaries for Federal Parliamentarians are set.

These potential reforms pose implications for the base salaries of Tasmanian Members of Parliament, due to the current arrangement which sees State MPs salaries linked to our Federal counterparts. Specifically, the federal reforms could see the roll-over of Federal MPs' allowances into their base salary, which will mean that Tasmanians MPs could automatically receive an increase to their base salaries of approximately 30 per cent, effective July this year.

It is the Greens' belief that an increase in salaries for State Members of Parliament in the context of a tough upcoming State Budget is highly inappropriate. At a time when many Tasmanians will be required to make sacrifices and 'tighten' their belts, I am sure we both agree that leadership is required by the community's elected representatives.

In accordance with the Greens' long-held position that it is inappropriate for MPs to directly set their own salary, whether it be to increase or decrease the amount, I propose that you request the Tasmanian Industrial Commission to investigate implementing an immediate freeze on the current base salaries of State MPs.

I look forward to your response on this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Nick McKim

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