

# Tasmanian Election 2010

## Environment

# Scorecard

This document outlines a summary of the assessment of each of the 3 main political parties in Tasmania on environment & conservation policy leading up to the 2010 Tasmanian election.

This assessment has been compiled by Environment Tasmania, Tasmania's peak environment body. Environment Tasmania is an umbrella body that represents more than 20 Tasmanian conservation & environment non-government organisations from across the island state, with collective representation of over 5000 Tasmanians. Environment Tasmania is strictly non-party political, and our member groups work on a wide range of conservation & environment issues, from climate change, water, coastal protection, Parks management, forest & marine conservation to waste and pollution.

To produce this environment policy score-card, Environment Tasmania rated the 3 main Tasmanian political parties using the best available information at our disposal on the parties respective environment policy positions and commitments. This included published policy positions, public statements, historical positions, and formal & informal feedback from representatives from each of the parties. The parties' environmental credentials and policies were assessed against each of the 6 key sub-headings on environment policy outlined in the 'Joint Tasmanian Environment Groups' 2010 Environment Policy Agenda'. The joint policy agenda represents a con-

sensus policy position of Environment Tasmania's member groups and was publicly launched in January 2010, and distributed to all 3 political parties.

The assessment has been based on a scoring system of 0 – 5 out of 5: (0 = fail 1 star = very poor policy, 2 = poor 3 = average 4 = good 5 = outstanding)

The joint environment groups' policy agenda is attached.



# ENVIRONMENT POLICY ASSESSMENTS

## Marine

LABOR: 1.5/5

There is a standing state government policy to establish a comprehensive, adequate and representative system of marine national parks in Tasmania to protect our marine wildlife, there is also a component of state government policy that relates to the Tasmanian government's responsibility to implement a public education campaign on the values of Tasmania's marine environment and benefits of marine national parks. However, Labor has failed to deliver on its existing policy commitments to establish marine national parks, and rejected the RPDC's recommendations in relation to Marine parks for the Bruny Bioregion. Similarly, whilst there is support for the concept of improvements in ecosystem based management of our marine environment to deliver sustainability, there hasn't been much in real-term commitment. The need to protect recreational fishing in Tasmania by improving the license system, monitoring and by banning gillnetting, have not been addressed by Labor.

LIBERAL: 1.5/5

The Liberals support the current Tasmanian policy on marine parks, but have failed to call the government to account on their failure to properly implement a policy to establish a comprehensive, adequate and representative system of marine national parks in Tasmania to protect our marine wildlife. The Liberal party in fact opposed the establishment of Marine national parks in the Bruny Bioregion. Similarly, the Liberals have not yet committed to a simple but important public education campaign on the values of Tasmania's marine environment and benefits of marine national parks. Whilst the Liberal party have voiced support for the concepts of improvements in ecosystem based management of our marine environment to deliver sustainability, there hasn't been much in real-term policy commitment to improve marine sustainability. The need to protect recreational fishing in Tasmania was partially recognised through an election campaign policy commitment to dedicated recreational fishing areas excluding commercial fishing, however there has been no commitment to improving the license system and monitoring nor a much needed commitment to the banning of gillnetting.

GREENS: 4/5

The Greens have strongly argued for the establishment of a comprehensive, adequate and representative system of marine national parks, and for improved resourcing for the Parks & Wildlife service, for public education, and for the implementation of ecosystem based management. These are crucial policy commitments to improve the protection of our marine environment and wildlife. There have not been firm commitments on the need to improve the sustainability of recreational fishing through a license system or on the need to ban gillnetting, the most indiscriminate and damaging form of recreational fishing.

## Coasts

LABOR 1/5

Labor has a standing commitment to update Tasmania's state coastal policy,



and has indicated a growing acknowledgement of a need to take into account factors such as sea-level rise. However, this coastal policy has floundered for several years without any implementation. There has not been the strong commitments to protection of our coastline against strip and ribbon development, nor the need for better management funding, nor the need to remove the Aquaculture exemption in LUPA. There has been a commitment to respect the final recommendation of the Planning commission in relation to Ralph's bay, and a commitment that if the commission rejects the proposal, to develop a state-wide ban on Canal estate developments. However, the commitment to reject Ralph's bay is not unequivocal, and Labor have not ruled out the Ralph's bay canal estate development or further canal-estate developments in Tasmania.

LIBERAL 1/5

The Liberal party have on occasions pushed strongly for the implementation of an updated Tasmanian state coastal policy, and have also indicated a growing acknowledgement of a need to take into account factors such as sea-level rise. However, the The Liberals have not indicated the strong commitments to protection of our coastline against strip and ribbon development that are needed, nor have the Liberals committed to the need for better coastal management funding, nor the need to remove the Aquaculture exemption in LUPA. There has been a commitment from the Liberals to respect the final recommendation of the Planning commission in relation to Ralph's bay, and Will Hodgman personally has expressed his personal view that Ralph's bay is not an appropriate development. However, the commitment to reject Ralph's bay is not unequivocal, and the Liberal party have not ruled out the Ralph's bay canal estate development or further canal-estate developments in Tasmania.

GREENS 3.8/5

The Greens have been firmly and forcefully pushing for the development and implementation of a strong state coastal policy that protects our precious coastline against ribbon development, inappropriate developments, and urban sprawl. The Greens have also supported a general increase in Parks funding and have unequivocally indicated their opposition to the proposed Ralph's Bay canal estate development and their support for a state-wide ban on canal-estate developments in Tasmania. The Greens have also opposed the exemptions contained in LUPA for Aquaculture.

### Forests & Landscapes

LABOR 0/5

Labor have listened Gunns rather than the Tasmanian community on forests, and have locked into the old, divisive, failed vision for Tasmania's timber industry. Labor have backed the ongoing wood-chipping of Tasmania's ancient forests, continues to look to divide Tasmanians over forests rather than finding a solution, has not adequately addressed community concerns over plantations management and have not committed – though have not ruled out reforming Forestry Tasmania to remove their conflict of interest. Labor continue to back a polluting chlorine pulp mill in the Tamar Valley that Tasmanians don't want.

LIBERAL 0/5

Whilst Tasmanians have been yearning for a different approach, the Liberal party have promised a carbon copy of Labor's divisive, destructive and failed policy on forests. The Liberal policy backs the ongoing wood-chipping of Tasmania's ancient forests, and has not supported the development of a solution to the conflict over

forestry in Tasmania. The Liberals have made some small steps towards addressing community concerns over plantations management by improved water and pesticides monitoring, and the Liberal party have not committed to – though have not ruled out reforming Forestry Tasmania to remove their conflict of interest. The Liberal party continues to back a polluting chlorine pulp mill in the Tamar Valley that Tasmanians don't want.

GREENS **4.5/5**

The Greens have continued to strongly advocate for the protection of Tasmania's high conservation value native forests, the delivery of a solution to the conflict over our native forests that involves a staged transition, important reforms to plantation management, the re-structuring of Forestry Tasmania, and the removal of native forests from the wood-supply deal. The Greens continue to strongly oppose the proposed Tamar Valley pulp mill. There is a need from more detail from the Greens on their commitment to a complete shift of industrial scale logging out of Tasmania's native forests estate.

### National Parks & Reserves

LABOR **1/5**

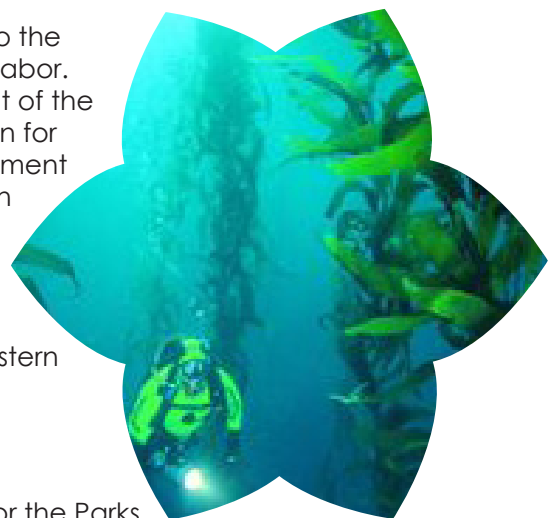
In late 2009, the Labor party moved to re-instate funding to the Parks & Wildlife service that was cut in the 2009/10 budget, however, this is well short of what is needed to restore the funding of the PWS to what is needed to properly protect, manage, conserve and maintain our outstanding reserve system. Whilst there has been a commitment to create a Bay of Fires National Park – Labor ignored submissions from local environment groups on the appropriate boundaries for the park – leaving the forested hinterland behind the coastal environment open to logging. Similarly, Labor forcefully pushed forward a divisive proposal for a road through a rainforest reserve in the Tarkine which would be environmentally destructive and isn't supported by local conservation groups or tourism operators. Labor has not committed to creating new iconic national parks in places like the Tarkine, Great-Western Tiers and other proposed new national parks across Tasmania.

LIBERAL **3/5**

The Liberal party have taken a more constructive approach to the importance of our National parks & parks management than Labor. The Liberal party have committed to restoring the independence of the Parks & Wildlife service, have supported a strategic tourism plan for the Tarkine that looks after the Tarkine's unique natural environment and have opposed the destructive proposal for a road through the Tarkine rainforest. The Liberal party have listened to local environment groups who would like a review of the proposed boundaries of the Bay of Fires National Park. The Liberal party haven't committed to the need to establish a series of new Tasmanian National parks, including the Tarkine, the Great Western Tiers, the Blue Tier and others.

GREENS **4/5**

The Greens have committed to a significant boost in funding for the Parks & Wildlife service, are committed to protecting Tasmania's natural landscapes in a series of outstanding new National parks, including the Tarkine, Great Western Tiers and World Heritage area extensions, are committed to a strategic approach to tourism that respects the Tarkine wilderness, have committed to opposing the Tarkine



road, but have caused some concerns due to their public support for the 3 Capes Proposal which has some destructive elements such as the potential for private huts within the boundaries of the National park.

### Climate Change, Energy & Public Transport

GREENS: 4/5

The Greens have made a commitment to consider climate change in all policy areas and for the principle of sustainability to be an underpinning factor in all their policies. The Greens have also been the most committed to climate change solutions on both a state and federal level. The party has imaginative and strong policies in the areas of improving energy efficiency, take-up of public and low-carbon transport, boosting deployment and take-up of renewable energy, protecting the natural environment, encouraging a shift to low-carbon workplaces, and eliminating waste.

The Greens rate better on climate policy than both the Liberal and Labor parties as their policies include more details, more stringent targets, time-lines and budget allocations.

LABOR: 2/5

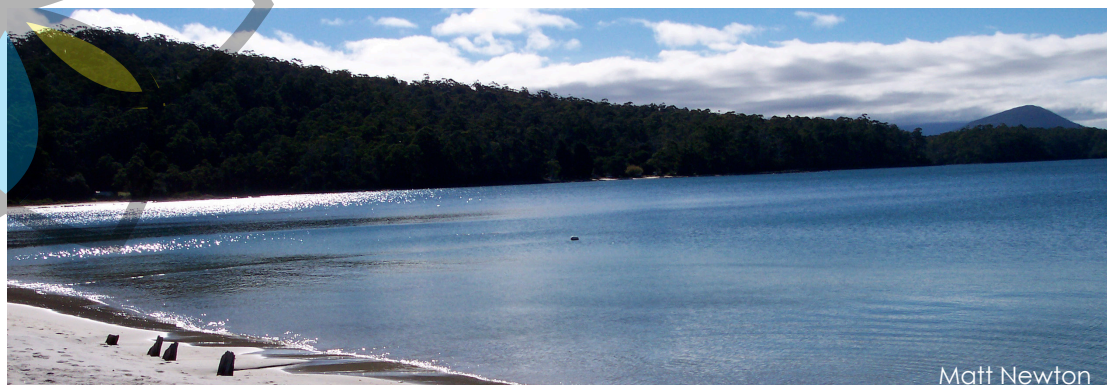
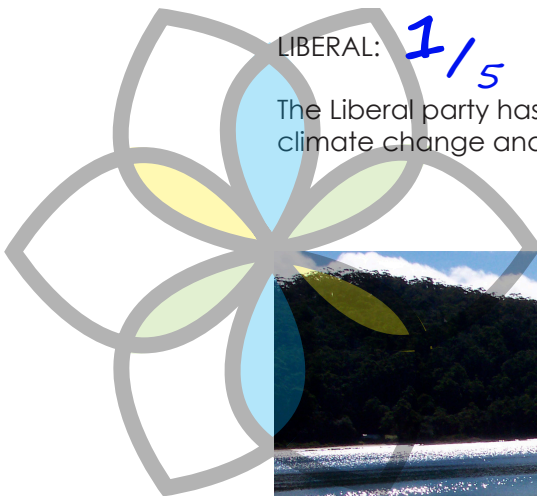
It should be acknowledged that Labor has started on the process of forming climate change policy by developing their 'Framework for Action on Climate Change' and should also be commended for establishing the Tasmanian Climate Action Council and commissioning The Wedges Analysis of mitigation opportunities.

Of particular note is Labor's policy for 100% renewable electricity by 2020, but it is dampened by the inability to give an undertaking that it would not include the burning of native forests to produce power. Labor has also given policy commitments to public transport, building climate change factors into its procurement guidelines and specifying minimum energy standards for new government buildings.

It is important to note that many of Labor's climate policies are lacking in commitment details and are heading in a dangerous climate direction when it comes to natural carbon stores and planning laws.

LIBERAL: 1/5

The Liberal party has remained reasonably quiet when it comes to their position on climate change and have not featured climate change as a priority policy area



this election. However, over the final days of the election this has changed and the Liberal party has made a number of climate policy commitments.

Liberals would support public and private renewable energy schemes and marketing of local food, ban plastic shopping bags, offer practical water-saving incentives and free school bus services, and establish a stand-alone environment department

However, details, timelines and targets are notably absent from many policies and are heading in a dangerous climate direction when it comes to natural carbon stores.

### Water, Waste & Sustainable Development

LABOR 1/5

Labor have embarked on a 'food bowl of the nation' irrigation initiative for Tasmania which fails to provide a sustainable long-term agricultural vision for the state. In particular, there are no policy plans for establishing an Integrated Catchment Management framework as well as no commitment for a comprehensive landscape scale analysis of existing salinity. There is no policy commitment to ban aerial spraying or the endocrine disrupting triazine group of chemicals. Labor have however remained firmly committed to the important moratorium on GE in Tasmania. In terms of waste, Labor have been engaging with the other states on a National Waste Policy, but have not committed to Container Deposit System for Tasmania regardless of these negotiations.

LIBERAL 1.5/5

Like Labor, the Liberals are supportive of an expansion on irrigation in Tasmania to 'drought proof' the state, without an implemented Integrated Catchment framework or consideration of the need for a landscape scale analysis of existing salinity. The Liberals are committed to improving the current level of water testing in our rivers for chemical contamination and support a phased in statewide ban of non-biodegradable plastic bags. The Liberals have shown leadership regarding the Tarkine road proposal and support an alternative community driven tourism vision for the region.

GREENS 4.5/5

The Greens have committed to an Integrated Catchment Management style audit of our water catchments and to both comprehensively review the pesticides used and increase the frequency and thoroughness of the water testing regime. There is also a commitment to enact Chemical Trespass Legislation and ban all Triazine family of chemicals, and the Greens are firmly committed to a 100% GE Free Tasmania. The Greens have backed a comprehensive Container Deposit System for Tasmania and support regional tourism initiatives, including providing a solid alternative for tourism in the Tarkine region.

### Environmental Governance

LABOR 1.2/5

David Bartlett made a personal pledge to restore Tasmanians' trust in democracy through a 10-point plan. One of the key elements of this plan including the crucial reform of establishing an independent integrity commission, and Labor has followed



through with this commitment. However, Labor have failed in a range of other important areas. There has been a degradation of the independence and strength of the planning system, a removal of the independence of the environment agency, poor funding for the EPA, a failure to commit to the need for the number of MHAs and MLCs in Tasmania's parliament to be restored, and a failure to commit to revoke Section 11 of the Pulp Mill Assessment Act. There has been a late and welcomed commitment to support an Integrity Commission review into the assessment and approval of the pulp mill assessment and approval process.

LIBERAL **2.5/5**

The Liberal party have made a number of important commitments in this area, including a firm commitment to establish a stand-alone, well resourced and independent environment & parks department in Tasmania, support for the establishment of the integrity commission, and a commitment to re-instate the size of the Tasmanian parliament. However, there has been a failure of the Liberal party to support the revocation of Section 11 of the pulp mill assessment act or to commit to an integrity commission inquiry into the pulp mill approval process.

GREENS **5/5**

The Greens have been very strong on the need to restore trust in the way our environment is managed and governed in Tasmania. This includes a firm commitment to better and more independent planning processes, a commitment to a fully resourced and independent Environment & Parks agency, a properly resourced EPA, an empowered and well-resourced integrity commission, the restoration of the size of Parliament, and the revocation of the undemocratic Section 11 of the PMAA. The Greens have also forcefully pushed for an inquiry into the assessment and approval process for the proposed pulp mill.



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## Environment

# Scorecard

	Labor	Liberal	Greens
Forest and Landsdapes	0/5	0/5	4.5/5
Marine	1.5/5	1.5/5	4/5
Climate Change	2/5	1/5	4/5
Coasts	1/5	1/5	3.8/5
Waste & Water	1/5	1.5/5	4.5/5
National Parks and Reserves	1/5	3/5	4/5
Environmental Governance	1.2/5	2.5/5	5/5
<b>Total</b>	<b>1/5</b>	<b>1.5/5</b>	<b>4.2/5</b>

For more information, please contact

[Environment Tasmania](#)  
The Conservation Council

P: 03 6224 6319  
PO Box 1073  
Hobart Tasmania  
Australia 7000  
[www.et.org.au](http://www.et.org.au)

