



A Diverse Economic Vision for the Tarkine Region:

The Tasmanian Greens' Alternative \$23M Tarkine National Park Funding Package

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Wild Tarkine. Rob Blakers

**POLICY INITIATIVE
OF THE TASMANIAN GREENS MPs**

A Diverse Economic Vision for the Tarkine Region

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Tasmanian Greens' Alternative \$23 Million Tarkine National Park Package
12 Projects to boost jobs and sustainable growth in North West Tasmania

1. Tarkine Awareness, Marketing & Public Education Campaign	\$1.5 million
2. Arthur River Visitor Information & Cultural Interpretive Centre	\$2.5 million
3. Strategic Tarkine Road Upgrades	\$4.75 million
3a. Independent Cost Assessment & Cost-Benefit Analysis	\$200 000
4. Explorer Attractions and Facilities; including self-drive, mountain bike, lookouts, short walks, interpretation, rafting	\$2.5 million
5. Tarkine National Park Interpretation and Tourism Infrastructure – Corinna	\$1 million
6. Waratah Tarkine Visitor Centre & Tasmanian Devil Refuge Education Centre	\$2 million
7. Tarkine Great Short Walks Program	\$2 million
8. Tarkine Rainforest Trail & Tarkine Coastal Track Feasibility Studies	\$1 million
9. Tarkine Waratah to West Coast Mining History and Heritage Trail	\$ 0.8 million
10. Tarkine Southern Gateway Towns' Visitor Infrastructure	\$1 million
11. Stanley, Circular Head Infrastructure and Marketing fund	\$0.75 million
12. Parks & Wildlife Service Core Funding and Tarkine Infrastructure Fund	\$3 million
TOTAL EXPENDITURE:	\$23 million



A Diverse Economic Vision for the Tarkine Region

A 12 Project Plan to Boost Jobs and Sustainable Growth in the North West

The Tasmanian Greens recognise that the Tarkine wilderness in North West Tasmania has enormous untapped economic potential as an iconic, natural visitor destination.

The Greens believe that the best way to secure the economic future of communities in the region is to establish a Tarkine National Park, to invest in strategic and sustainable regional tourism infrastructure and to develop, then aggressively market a genuine Tarkine Wilderness brand.

The Greens have a vision for the Tarkine that extends far beyond the Bartlett Government's divisive proposal to push a Forestry Tasmania road through the Savage River rainforest – the largest tract of unbroken rainforest in Australia and a last refuge of the endangered Tasmanian Devil.

The Tasmanian Greens Tarkine Funding Package outlines 12 projects that would be funded from the \$23 million the Bartlett Government has allocated to be spent on a single project in the North West.

A Diverse Economic Vision for the Tarkine

The Greens believe in diversity. We believe the 12 projects contained in this funding package and the establishment of a Tarkine National Park will deliver sustainable jobs and growth in townships from Rosebery to Savage River, Smithton and Wynyard.

These economic benefits will be shared more widely across Tasmania's tourism and hospitality sectors.

The Greens' Tarkine Funding Package funds strategic investment in National Park and eco-tourism infrastructure, with the focus on three main entry points to the Tarkine: Arthur River township in the north, Waratah in the east and Corinna in the south.

The Greens have a plan that supports and builds on the strategic direction set down by the Cradle Coast Authority in its *Tarkine Tourism Development Strategy 2008*. The result of extensive consultation and public input, the *Tarkine Tourism Development Strategy 2008* forecasts that in less than a decade, the Tarkine could inject \$58 million of localised tourism spending into the region, and create 1100 new jobs.

The Strategy makes it clear these benefits will only flow if a genuine Tarkine wilderness brand is developed and marketed; and visitor enjoyment is assured.

The Greens believe the only way to protect the globally unique Tarkine brand and guarantee a genuine and enjoyable visitor experience at an iconic destination, is to declare a Tarkine National Park.

The 12 projects funded under the Tasmanian Greens' Alternative \$23M Budget for the Tarkine National Park are spread evenly and fairly across the region.

...The Tarkine has the largest tract of unbroken rainforest in Australia which is a last refuge of the endangered Tasmanian Devil.

The 12 projects in the Greens' package will deliver jobs and growth from Rosebery to Savage River, Smithton and Wynyard.



Tasmanian Greens' Tarkine National Park Package:

12 Projects for \$23 million

The Tarkine has three natural entrances: Arthur River in the north, Corinna in the south & Waratah in the east.

1. Tarkine Awareness, Marketing & Public Education Campaign	<u>\$1.5 million</u>
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Raise local, national and international awareness of the outstanding natural and cultural values of the Tarkine, with a focus on its three established entrances: Northern Entrance at Arthur River, Southern Entrance at Corinna and Eastern Entrance at Waratah.

- Provide funds for the Cradle Coast Authority and Tourism Tasmania, in conjunction with their Service Agreement, to engage marketing experts to help develop the Tarkine Wilderness Brand, and provide products and advice to market the Tarkine, locally, nationally and internationally;
- Install Statewide directional road signage to the Northern, Eastern and Southern gateways to the Tarkine; and
- Fund a Statewide public education campaign to promote the Tarkine's natural values, heritage and cultural history.

2. Arthur River Visitor Information & Cultural Interpretive Centre	<u>\$2.5 million</u>
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Create a sense of arrival amongst visitors at the Arthur River township.

- Commence construction of the Arthur River Visitor Information and Cultural Interpretative Centre;
- Prepare and cater for the flow on effect of new businesses such as cafes, restaurants and river cruises seeking to capitalise on the "Wilderness at the Edge of the World" marketing possibilities at the Centre; and
- Adequately staff the Centre with five Parks and Wildlife Rangers, at least one of whom is a member of the Tasmanian Aboriginal community, to help distribute expert information about the area, including its rich Aboriginal and European heritage and modern day wilderness experiences¹.



¹ \$100,000 per annum per Ranger made up of \$70,000 salary, \$20,000 on-costs and professional development and \$10,000 vehicle expenses.

3. Strategic Tarkine Road Upgrades	<u>\$4.75 million</u>
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3a. Independent Cost Assessment & Cost-Benefit Analysis.	<u>\$200 000</u>
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Undertake an independent assessment, including cost-benefit analysis of strategic, modest road upgrades, including the South Arthur Forest Drive; the Meunna, Arthur River, Somerset loop; Dip Falls; and Savage River through to Corinna and Zeehan.

4. Explorer Attractions and Facilities; including self-drive, mountain bike, lookouts, short walks, interpretation, rafting	<u>\$2.5 million</u>
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Promote the Western Explorer Route as an iconic coastal and wilderness experience.

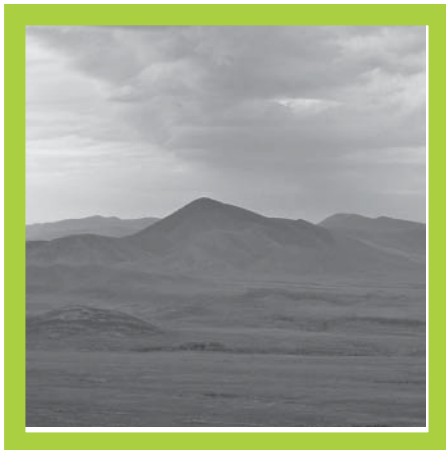
- Construct strategically placed lookouts, short walks, interpretive material, day use and picnic sites areas along the Western Explorer Road;
- Develop a multi day mountain bike track along the old Balfour rail track and provide overnight camping and historical interpretation; and
- Prioritise an ongoing monitoring and rehabilitation program, in recognition of the ongoing ecological degradation posed by the Western Explorer road especially in the areas of feral plant and animal invasions, Phytophthora disease management and fire outbreaks.

5. Tarkine National Park Interpretation and Tourism Infrastructure – Corinna	<u>\$1 million</u>
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Provide map based signage at Corinna that indicates the facilities available at Corinna and the wilderness experiences located to the north along the Western Explorer Road and to the East and West up and downstream of the Pieman River.

- Construct camping facilities to complement existing adventure based activities.

Explore from Arthur River to Savage River through to Corinna and Zeehan.



The proposed Tarkine National Park is a potential refuge for the Tasmanian Devil from the Devil Facial Tumour Disease.

6. Waratah Tarkine Visitor Centre & Tasmanian Devil Refuge Education Centre	<u>\$2 million</u>
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Commence construction of the Waratah Tarkine and Tasmanian Devil Refuge Education Centre at the Athenaeum Hall which provides an overview of the Tarkine, and its natural values.

- ❑ The Visitor Centre will highlight the significance of the Tarkine National Park as a potential refuge for the Tasmanian Devil from the Devil Facial Tumour Disease;
- ❑ Provide map based signage at Corinna that indicates the facilities available at Corinna and the wilderness experiences located to the north along the Western Explorer Road and to the East and West up and downstream of the Pieman River; and
- ❑ Construct camping facilities to complement existing adventure based activities.

7. Tarkine Great Short Walks Program	<u>\$2 million</u>
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Create 10 more great short walks in the Tarkine and surrounds to complement existing facilities and create more great attractions for the region.

Possible walks include Longback, Mt Balfour, Mt Livingstone, Mt Cleveland, Huskisson River, Bluff Hill point to Arthur Heads, Couta Rocks, Hellyer Gorge and McGowan's falls.

8. Tarkine Rainforest Trail & Tarkine Coastal Track Feasibility Studies	<u>\$1 million</u>
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Conduct feasibility studies and preparatory work into the creation of two new iconic multi-day walks for Tasmania including tent platforms, track-work, toilets and associated facilities.

9. Tarkine Waratah to West Coast Mining History and Heritage Trail	<u>\$0.8 million</u>
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Create signage, interpretation, visitor attractions and accessibility for the unique mining history and heritage along the Tarkine West Coast Trail incorporating Waratah, the old mining towns of Luina, Savage River, Corinna and Zeehan.



10. Tarkine Southern Gateway Towns' Visitor Infrastructure	<u>\$1 million</u>
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Provide funding for three key southern gateway towns to the Tarkine - Zeehan, Rosebery and Tullah, for the development of signage, interpretation, visitor information and other tourism and heritage development in each of these unique, historic and accessible Tarkine gateways townships.

11. Stanley, Circular Head Infrastructure and Marketing Fund	<u>\$0.75 million</u>
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Provide marketing capacity and funding for facility upgrades at Stanley and Circular Head to link the unique historic and heritage attractions of the Circular Head region with the unique natural attractions of the Tarkine.

12. Parks & Wildlife Service Core Funding and Tarkine Infrastructure Fund.	<u>\$3 million</u>
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The Parks & Wildlife service currently has the responsibility of managing more than 150,000 hectares of public conservation reserves in the Tarkine region.

The PWS also has a management responsibility for as an extraordinary wealth of archaeological sites reflecting the Tasmanian Aboriginal communities' deep connection with the Tarkine. These sites, and the area's natural heritage, are inadequately protected.

Tasmania's Parks' service in the Tarkine region is drastically underfunded and needs a major funding boost for core rangers, staff, facilities and infrastructure maintenance and improvement.

The Greens' alternative vision for a Tarkine National Park will ensure visitors enjoy unique wilderness experiences on a sustainable basis, ensuring a more prosperous future for North West and West Coast communities for generations to come.

TOTAL EXPENDITURE:	<u>\$23 million</u>
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More funding to link the unique historic & heritage attractions of Circular Head with the unique natural attractions of the Tarkine.

The Tasmanian Aboriginal communities' archaeological sites and the area's natural heritage need better protection.

