



# A NEW ETHIC

(from 1972, revised 2017)

## Introduction

We, citizens of Tasmania and members of the United Tasmania Group, united in a global movement for survival, moved by the need for *A New Ethic* that unites humanity with Nature to prevent the collapse of life systems of the Earth, concerned for the integrity of the physical landscape, all living species and humanity and the value of cultural heritage, and rejecting any view of humans that gives them the right to exploit all of nature, declare the following:

## Social and environmental requirements for ethical and sustainable development

1. **Reject** all exclusive ideological and pragmatic views of society as partial and divisive;
2. **condemn** the misuse of power for individual or group prominence based on aggression against humanity and Nature;
3. **shun** the acquisition and display of individual wealth as an expression of greed for status or power;
4. **acknowledge** that Tasmania is uniquely favoured with natural resources, climate, form and beauty;
5. **undertake** to live our private and communal lives in such a way that we maintain Tasmania's form and beauty not just for our enjoyment but the enjoyment of all future generations;
6. **undertake** to create aesthetic harmony between our human structures and the natural landscape where our individual and communal needs demand modification of the natural landscape;
7. **undertake** to regulate our individual and communal needs for resources, both living and non-living, while preventing the wholesale extraction of our non-replenishable resources for the satisfaction of profit;
8. **undertake** to husband and cherish Tasmania's living resources so that we do minimum damage to the web of life of which we are a part, while preventing the extinction or serious depletion of any form of life by our individual, group or communal actions.

## And we shall

9. **create** new institutions so that all who wish may participate in making laws and decisions at all levels concerning the social, cultural, political and economic life of the community;
10. **nurture** a new community in which men and women of all cultures and capacities shall be valued for their personal skills, for the material and nonmaterial worth of these skills to groups and the whole community, for their service to the community, and for their achievements in all aspects of life;
11. **prevent** alienation of people in their social and work roles and functions while, making scientific, technical and vocational knowledge and practise free and open to all;
12. **provide** institutions for the peaceful and unimpeded evolution of the community and for the maintenance of justice and equal opportunity for all people;
13. **change** our society and culture to prevent a tyranny of rationality (or irrationality) at the expense of values, by which we may lose the unique adaptability of our species for meeting cultural and environmental changes.

## Within a society where we

14. **live** as equal members to maintain a community governed by rational, non-sectional and non-secular laws;
15. **preserve** specific areas of private and group life where private thought, speech and action is of group importance and does not interfere unreasonably with others;
16. **vest** our individual and communal rights in a parliament of representatives chosen by all to enact our law for as long as that power is not used unfairly to advantage or disadvantage any individual or group in the community; and
17. **encourage** citizens from all sectors, all ages and backgrounds to participate in civil society and the political system, to create a society in which ethics, ecological practice, social justice, economy, state management and political practice are compatible with the long-term sustainability of this planet.

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