

Unlocking the potential in our Parks

Building a Tasmania we
can all be proud of



Change
for a brighter
future

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The Plan to build a modern economy,
to create jobs

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Supporting sensible and sustainable development

Tasmania's natural environment, including our world class National Parks and World Heritage Areas, are one of our greatest assets, and most valuable tourism drawcards.

Unfortunately, under Labor and the Greens, sensible development of our national heritage assets is discouraged.

Even the idea of a development at the top of Mount Wellington to encourage and cater to tourists is opposed by Labor and the Greens.

The simple fact is that under Labor and the Greens, the full tourism potential of our natural assets is not being realised. Rather, there is a lock it up and throw away the key attitude.

In order to ensure that Tasmanians and visitors continue to enjoy our natural environment to the greatest extent possible, the Liberals will facilitate sensible, sustainable development and improved infrastructure in our National Parks and World Heritage Areas.

A majority Hodgman Liberal Government will introduce a range of initiatives to make Tasmania's parks and reserves more inviting and more accessible, offering a broader range of opportunities for visitors to enjoy.

Unlike Labor and the Greens, we will not lock parks and reserves up and throw away the key. We will breathe new life into our parks and give Tasmanians and visitors alike every opportunity to enjoy them.

\$2 million to build a better South Coast Track

Tasmania's southwest wilderness is an untapped part of our State with huge tourism potential. Labor and the Greens are only funding ad-hoc maintenance and have no plans to fund the upgrade of this important track.

A majority Hodgman Liberal Government will invest \$2 million in upgrading the South Coast Track (from Melaleuca to Cockle Creek) to provide improved access to some of Tasmania's most remote and beautiful wilderness in the Southwest National Park.

Funding will be used to upgrade ageing, existing infrastructure including degraded duck boards and bridges, clear areas where tracks have become difficult to access, improve track access to and from beach areas, and improve other track infrastructure to allow walkers to access the full track in safety.

National Parks should not be reserved exclusively for only the most experienced walkers and the Liberals' plan will broaden the appeal of the beautiful Southwest National Park, generating more tourism and economic activity in Tasmania.

Improvements to the South Coast Track will start in 2014-15 and a majority Hodgman Liberal Government will work to complete the track by 2015-16.

\$4 million to continue works to complete the iconic Three Capes Track

Labor's budget mismanagement has meant that the iconic Three Capes Track will not be completed within the original timetable or funding allocation, reducing what was to be an iconic tourism experience to nothing more than a two-capes trail. This project needs to be realised to its full potential for the benefit of the local community and the tourism industry.

A majority Hodgman Liberal Government will invest \$4 million towards the completion of Stage 3 of the Three Capes Track, and seek support from the Federal Government to match our extra commitment to ensure that the work is finalised.

When completed, the Government's own figures show that this track will be a global attraction, bringing 10,000 walkers to the region and generating \$3 million each year in economic activity, supporting 70 direct and indirect jobs locally.

For the State, the project is expected to inject \$20 million into the economy, and support 334 direct and indirect jobs in Tasmania as a whole.

Partnering with the private sector to unlock our parks, and facilitate further development

Some of Tasmania's most iconic, attractive and visited places are those where the natural assets are complimented by suitable tourism infrastructure and operations. Cradle Mountain is a good example of where sensitive development in a parks setting can build upon the existing appeal of a park and provide more opportunities for recreation and enjoyment as an extra draw card to the area.

We believe that sensitive and appropriate development in and around our parks and reserves will encourage and drive visitation, unlocking the potential of our parks for all Tasmanians. Tasmania's wildness is renowned, and we can add to its appeal through eco-tourism.

The Liberals will encourage development in our National Parks by calling for expressions of interest from private investors and tourism operators to propose their ideas for developing sensible, low-impact eco-tourism experiences and associated infrastructure which will broaden the range of exciting and unique experiences on offer in our beautiful parks.

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A majority Liberal Government has committed \$16 million for tourism marketing – and some of this money will also be used to market our beautiful parks

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This process will take place in two stages:

1. **Statewide Expression of Interest (EOI) process** – Expressions invited for suitable and appropriate development proposals in:
 - a. Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Areas and National Parks;
 - b. Other protected areas including state reserves and Wellington Park; and
 - c. Other state owned land, including Crown land, state forests and land adjacent to Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Areas and National Parks.

Proposals received in the EOI process will be assessed on a number of criteria:

- a. The appropriateness of the particular development to a particular site;
 - b. The qualifications of the proponent to establish and operate the development; and
 - c. The ability of the proponent to finance the development.
2. Proposals that are qualified against criteria in stage one will be **invited to tender** through the second process where a detailed application will be required. The government will assist applications through this process through the Office of the Coordinator General.

Successful applicants will be granted exclusive licence arrangements.

We believe that private investment in our parks and reserves is an excellent way to preserve and protect them, while giving everyone the chance to enjoy them.

The Labor-Green Government's only plan for the State's parks is to lock them up and shut people out.

Only the Liberals will ensure that all Tasmanians and visitors to our State can enjoy them.

Costings

\$6 million over 4 years.