

# Free Parks Passes for Tasmanian Seniors



## A MAJORITY HODGMAN LIBERAL GOVERNMENT WILL:

- Provide one year's free entry to our National Parks for Tasmanian seniors
- This will allow more than 100,000 Tasmanian residents aged over 60 entry to our parks at no cost
- Provide an ongoing 50 per cent discount on concession rates for annual parks passes
- Encourage more older Tasmanians to be active and enjoy our parks



## Protecting the Tasmanian way of life

### Free Parks Passes for Tasmanian Seniors

A re-elected majority Hodgman Liberal Government will offer a *Free Parks Pass for Tasmanian Seniors*, giving our over 60s unlimited, free access to our National Parks for a year.

We believe Tasmanian seniors have worked hard to contribute to the Tasmania that we all love and enjoy today. We will ensure that they can enjoy their state and be active by offering free parks entry.

Currently, Tasmanian seniors pay \$76 for an All Parks Annual Concession pass.

We will abolish these costs for a year, offering a *Free Parks Pass for Tasmanian Seniors* from 2018 – this will include free day passes and a free annual pass. We will link the *Free Parks Pass for Tasmanian Seniors* to the existing Tasmanian Seniors Card to provide simple, streamlined access to the new pass.

This will give Tasmanian seniors free access to our 19 National Parks, which include Cradle Mountain, Freycinet, Mount Field, Lake St Clair and Southwest.

The Tasmanian Seniors Card is currently held by more than 100,000 Tasmanians who are aged over 60, are a Tasmanian resident and work less than 20 hours a week in paid employment.

### Ongoing 50 per cent reduction in concession

The following year, from 2019, we will offer a 50 per cent discount on the concession fee for an All Parks Annual Concession pass for Tasmanian Senior Card holders. This will mean that instead of paying the existing fee, which is currently \$76, they will pay just \$38 for year round access to our 19 National Parks.

### Why Tasmania Needs This

The Tasmanian way of life is the envy of the world. Whether it's being able to visit our wilderness areas, throwing a line in to catch dinner, camping, four-wheel driving or simply appreciating our historic architecture and low-rise cities, our laid back lifestyle is special.

We want to ensure that Tasmanian seniors, who have worked hard to make Tasmania all that it is today, can enjoy their own backyard.

According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, there are more than 131,000 Tasmanians aged over 60. However, fewer than 2,000 concession passes were sold in 2016-17.

## Our Targets

### # 20

Keep cost of living increases for Government services, on average, at or below the rate of inflation for the next four years.

For the full list of our Targets:  
[www.buildingyourfuture.com.au](http://www.buildingyourfuture.com.au)

## Key Facts

- ▶ There are an estimated 131,347 Tasmanians aged over 60.
- ▶ 104,000 Tasmanians hold a Tasmanian Seniors Card.
- ▶ In 2016-17 there were 261,763 parks passes issued.
- ▶ Tasmanians make up an estimated 24 per cent of all visitors to our National Parks.
- ▶ In 2016-17 there were 2,411 concession passes sold, including All Parks Annual, One Park Annual and All Parks Two Year - an estimated 1,896 of passes were sold to senior card holders (not just Tasmanian Senior Cards).

# The Tasmanian Liberals' Plan

Building  
your  
future

## Protecting the Tasmanian way of life

By helping with the financial cost to entering our National Parks, which may be a barrier for some, we will increase the number of Tasmanians who are enjoying our National Parks and being active.

This supports the Tasmanian Government's *Strong, Liveable Communities: Tasmania's Active Ageing Plan 2017-2022*, which includes key actions including: "facilitate access to physical activity to improve strength, resilience and participation; strengthen the liveability of local communities; and, assist people to access appropriate cost of living support".

## The Tasmanian Liberals' Plan

We are committed to investing in our parks, preserving what makes them unique and ensuring our wilderness areas are accessible for Tasmanians and visitors alike.

We have invested significantly in key infrastructure, including \$16 million over four years for the Tourism Infrastructure Fund and Tourism Infrastructure In Parks Program and \$21.8 million to construct a new Cradle Mountain gateway precinct, including a new visitor centre and new viewing facility at Dove Lake to ensure the visitor experience matches the unrivalled beauty of the area.

Through our EOI process we have opened up our parks to sensitive and appropriate tourism experiences in our national parks, reserves and Crown land to ensure appropriate access to our iconic wilderness which has resulted in several new world-class tourism developments.

We are also committed to initiatives that empower older Tasmanians to age well.

In May 2017 we released the *Strong Liveable Communities: Tasmania's Active Ageing Plan* to create a Tasmania that is the best place to live, work, invest and to be part of a family as we grow older.

## Cost

This will cost up to \$750,000 over three years to 2021.

## Labor Green Record

Under the Labor-Green Government, more and more of our state was locked up, while at the same time, they sought to deny people access to reserved areas. We know the Greens don't support sensitive and appropriate development in our reserves. They want to lock it up and throw away the key.

## Key Facts

- ▶ Tasmania has the oldest median age of all states and territories.
- ▶ By 2020, it is projected that one in five people will be aged 65 years or older.
- ▶ By 2030, one in four Tasmanians will be 65 or older.
- ▶ In 2017, the Liberal Government launched the Strong, Liveable Communities: Tasmania's Active Ageing Plan 2017-2022. The plan includes four priorities:
  - Health
  - Lifelong Learning
  - Participation
  - Security

It aims to re-shape the way our workplaces, communities and society, view and value older Tasmanians, to reduce barriers to participation and create opportunities.

The Active Ageing Plan is available at: [http://www.dpac.tas.gov.au/divisions/csr/policy/Policy\\_Work/active\\_ageing\\_plan](http://www.dpac.tas.gov.au/divisions/csr/policy/Policy_Work/active_ageing_plan)

## Related Policies

A re-elected majority Hodgman Liberal Government will invest an additional \$35 million in the Cradle Mountain Experience, and \$72 million to improve our most popular tourist roads.