

Taking our National Parks to the next level



A MAJORITY HODGMAN LIBERAL GOVERNMENT WILL:

- Invest \$31 million to take our National Parks to the next level
- \$24 million for our most iconic park attractions including Maria Island and the Overland Track
- Boost parks staff with 15 new rangers and frontline workers



Protecting Tasmania's way of life

Taking our National Parks to the Next Level

A re-elected Hodgman majority Liberal Government will invest an additional \$31 million to take our world-renowned National Parks and reserves to the next level.

We will invest \$16 million in our icon experiences, \$7 million to boost rangers and frontline staff and \$8 million to future-proof infrastructure.

Every year, our National Parks attract more than 1.3 million visitors, and these numbers are continuing to increase. They also support 200 nature-based tourism operators. We will ensure that our natural assets are protected for generations to come and that the experience matches the expectations of visitors and locals alike as we continue to push towards our goal of becoming the environmental tourism capital of the world.

This \$31 million commitment will build on our significant existing investment in National Parks and reserves, including \$21.8 million that's currently being delivered in the new Cradle Mountain gateway precinct and \$16 million in tourism infrastructure funding across the state.

Investing in Our Iconic Experiences

A re-elected Hodgman majority Liberal Government will invest an additional \$16 million over four years in our iconic National Parks and reserves experiences, including:

- ▶ Maria Island: \$4 million to further improve infrastructure and heritage sites, and open an EOI for the Bernacci Terraces, to develop new tourist accommodation that adds another option for travellers;
- ▶ Overland Track: \$3 million to renovate public huts on the world famous track;
- ▶ East Coast Camping: \$1.5 million to upgrading popular camps including Diana's basin camping area, Humbug Point camping area and camp areas in the Mount William National Park;
- ▶ Tasman National Park Gateway: \$1 million to improve facilities such as viewing platforms, tracks, toilets, carparks at key experiences, including at Devils Kitchen, Tasman Arch and Fortescue Bay;
- ▶ Cockle Creek: \$800,000 to improve the southern gateway to the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area;
- ▶ The Nut: \$450,000 to upgrade visitor infrastructure at the Stanley icon;
- ▶ Highfield House: \$250,000 for visitor amenity improvements in Stanley; and
- ▶ Ben Lomond National Park: \$400,000 to upgrade the shuttle bus car park below Jacobs Ladder.

Our Targets

- # 12: 50 000 tourism related jobs by 2022.
- # 13: A 50% increase in the average per visitor spend by 2022.
- # 14: 70% of all visitors to stay overnight in regional areas during their trip to Tasmania by 2022.
- # 40: Increase long term average investment in public infrastructure by 20%.

Key Facts

- ▶ Tasmania has 19 national parks and over 50% of its land mass protected in parks or reserves.
- ▶ The Parks 21 Progress Report shows that 39% of the people who come to Tasmania visited a national park or reserve.
- ▶ 1.3 million people visited Tasmania's National Parks in 2016-17



Protecting Tasmania's way of life

Boosting Rangers and Frontline Staff

A re-elected Hodgman majority Liberal Government will invest an additional \$7 million over four years to boost the frontline of Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS) with up to 15 additional workers.

We understand that more visitors requires more expert people on the ground, and this investment will achieve that.

The new rangers and field officers will enhance the overall experience of visitors and locals. This will cement our reputation as the environmental tourism capital of the world, while also ensuring all those that come to our National Parks and reserves have a memorable and safe experience.

Future-proof Infrastructure

We recognise that maintenance is a critical part of the work done by PWS, which is why we will provide an additional \$8 million over four years for important work on their assets to future-proof and ensure they are safe.

This will assist staff in ongoing maintenance work to keep the areas in good condition.

A specific fund for maintenance will also allow PWS to forward plan these works and keep assets at a high standard.

Why Tasmanian Needs This

We're committed to making Tasmania the environmental tourism capital of the world. We are realising this vision through the unqualified success of our Expressions of Interest (EOI) process in our National Parks, reserves and Crown Lands, which we introduced when we came to Government in 2014. We are also on track to reaching our target of attracting 1.5 million visitors to our state by 2020.

But we understand that as visitation to our parks increases, our investment in infrastructure and staff must also increase – this \$31 million commitment will achieve that.

Importantly, this will help us to achieve our new targets aimed at encouraging visitors to stay longer, spend more and see more of our state. This will ensure every region shares in the benefits of our tourism boom. Our National Parks and reserves are integral to achieving this.

Cost

The total cost of this policy is \$31 million over four years.

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 that 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

► The number of visitors to Tasmania who undertake a bushwalk has increased from 388 000 in 2008 to 584 000 in 2017.

► During this term, visitation has grown 28% or an additional 700 visitors every single day with 1.024 million more international and national travelers now coming to our shores.

► The amount that visitors are spending during their time in Tasmania has increased significantly with an additional \$2.1 billion now being spent.

► The number of Tasmanian employed in the visitor economy has increased significantly, with a huge 1,200 new direct and indirect jobs created in the industry since we came to Government – that is around 300 new jobs each year.

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.