

Safeguarding Tasmania's Unique Natural Environment



A MAJORITY LIBERAL GOVERNMENT WILL:

- Better utilise offenders on Community Service Orders (CSO) to conduct community clean ups
- Facilitate easier reporting and a crackdown on illegal waste disposal
- Streamline our Environmental Regulatory framework
- Fund a range of contemporary natural resource management initiatives



Protecting the Tasmanian way of life

Tasmania's Environment

Tasmania's environment is one of our greatest assets, our Parks and Reserves make up more than 50 per cent of our State. Our natural assets also contribute significantly to our enviable way of life, be it access to bushland only moments from the city to walk the dog, or the ability to throw in a fishing line after a short drive from home.

A re-elected majority Hodgman Liberal Government is committed to safeguarding our natural environment, preserving what makes our State so special.

Through a range of initiatives, we will seek to make Tasmania the tidiest state with our target of the lowest incidence of litter in the country by 2023 and crack down on those that rubbish our public places.

We will streamline our regulatory settings to guarantee proper protection of our environment, while ensuring those proposing projects are clear on the process and their obligations.

We will also fund a range of contemporary natural resource management initiatives to support landscapes across the State. Our Parks and Reserves will benefit from significant additional funding for staff, maintenance and visitor infrastructure.

And we will continue to implement our nation leading Climate Change plan.

Community Clean Ups

Litter and the illegal dumping of rubbish can be a significant problem, particularly on Crown land, reserves and roadsides. Primarily, actions to address this have come in the form of volunteer community groups and local councils to coordinate clean-ups of this litter.

A re-elected majority Hodgman Liberal Government will initiate a partnership between the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) Tasmania, as a division of DPIPW, and Community Corrections to provide for offenders made subject to a Community Service Order (CSO) to help with our battle against litter and illegal dumping of rubbish.

In 2016-17, more than 700 Community Service Orders were imposed by the Magistrates and Supreme Courts. These orders allow for the individual to perform work in the community.

The Community Service Order scheme has operated successfully in Tasmania for over 20 years with the aim of reducing re-offending and contributing to a safer society.

Relevant Targets

#38 – The lowest incidence of litter in the country by 2023.

Why Tasmania Needs This

Tasmania needs a proactive approach to reducing litter to keep our magnificent natural areas pristine and in line with Tasmania's clean brand.



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EPA Tasmania plays an active role with regard to a range of waste issues, including litter and waste management. Their expertise will support a cooperative partnership with Community Corrections, to target the removal of rubbish and litter in our Parks, reserves and public areas.

Those on CSOs are already currently utilised for some locally based projects, like graffiti removal and litter clean ups, but largely in an ad hoc way.

While ultimately the decision to impose a Community Service Order rests with the magistrate or judge, Community Corrections conduct thorough assessments to determine an offender's suitability to participate in a Community Service Order and the suitability for certain types of work.

Community Corrections also conducts a thorough project site assessment of any proposed project site to ensure the safety and security of everyone involved.

Many individuals who have completed Community Service Orders have spoken positively about being provided with the opportunity to undertake a productive and meaningful task as their community service.

Using offenders on CSOs to conduct community clean-ups and the removal of illegally dumped material is a win-win; our communities are cleaner and those subject to orders are actively giving back to their community.

Crack-down on illegal dumping

Illegal dumping of waste happens too often. With a vast network of reserves across the State, some individuals have tried to get out of properly disposing of waste by dumping it illegally, often on Crown and reserved land in remote areas.

It is important that we are able to deter people from illegal dumping in the first instance and incentivise tipoffs from the public with information of illegal dump sites and potential culprits.

That's why we will crack-down on illegal dumping of waste through:

- Increasing penalties for illegal dumping – currently there is no separation of illegal dumping from littering in terms of penalties under the *Litter Act 2007*. We will introduce a new category for illegal dumping of waste with stricter penalties, commensurate with the offence and the subsequent costs to the community for the proper, responsible disposal of the waste;
- Working with local government to establish monitoring of known dumping hotspots;
- Our Partnership between the EPA and Community Corrections will provide for offenders on CSOs to assist in removing rubbish;



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- Expanding the litter reporting mechanism through the development of a new smartphone application, providing the ability for the location of dumps to be recorded and hotspots identified; and
- Developing a program in consultation with local government for yearly hard waste/recyclable materials collection services.

Increase funding to Keep Australia Beautiful

We will also increase support to Keep Australia Beautiful (KAB) – Tasmania Inc from \$30,000 pa to \$45,000 per year for three years. This will support programs they deliver including:

- Tidy Towns;
- Sustainable Cities;
- Clean Beaches;
- School Environment Awards Program; and
- The ongoing management and expansion of the Eco School environment program.

Environmental Regulation

A re-elected majority Hodgman Liberal Government will also tidy up the State's environmental regulation scheme. Currently, a variety of Environment Protection Policies (EPPs), National Environment Protection Measures (NEPMs), Regulations, national and international Standards and legal precedents are used to inform decision making and regulation of environmental activities. Much of it is out of date and requires review, but it also ideally needs standardising into a consistent and transparent regulatory framework.

We will streamline the EPA's regulatory framework to ensure its assessment, regulatory functions and processes are efficient and remain contemporary.

This will make assessments more straight forward, transparent and timely, while not compromising strong environmental outcomes. This will improve the EPA's processes while also being beneficial for jobs and the economy.

Raptor Refuge support

The Raptor Refuge does fantastic work looking after injured Tasmanian birds of prey. Rehabilitating these unique animals requires considerable support from volunteers and they relies on members of the public to report injured animals.

A re-elected majority Hodgman Liberal Government will provide the Raptor Refuge with \$7,000 per annum to establish and run a dedicated telephone hotline for reporting of injured birds, helping to ensure they can be located and collected for treatment as speedily as possible.



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Landcare

The Landcare movement involves farmers and the community in practical works that sustain our productive soils and farm land, rivers, biodiversity and other natural resources. Investing in Landcare is smart as it helps maintain Tasmania's valuable reputation for clean and green food and agricultural products. We will:

- Establish a new \$2 million Landcare Action Grants Program over four years to co-invest with farmers, Landcare, and other community organisations on practical, on-ground works for sustainable agriculture and Rivercare. This includes \$200,000 for the DairyTas "Cows out of Creeks" project;
- Double the funding to the Tasmanian Landcare Association to \$960,000 over four years to support grass roots Landcare groups.

Increase funding for Natural Resource Management (NRM) to \$4.2 million over four years to enable NRM North, NRM South and Coast NRM to coordinate community involvement in Landcare programs.

Tackling Weeds

Weeds are a scourge on our landscape, impacting farm profitability and degrading our natural environment. In addition to putting the land back into Landcare, we will invest \$5 million over five years into a new Weed Action Fund which will invest with farmers, Landcare and other community organisations to tackle weeds that are impacting on valuable agricultural or environmental assets.

A new Tasmanian Weed Advocate – a recognised community Landcare leader – will work in partnership with existing DPIPWWE weeds and invasive species experts and stakeholders to identify the strategic on-ground priorities across land tenures and coordinate the Weed Action Fund.

Biosecurity Boost

Biosecurity is vitally important for protecting Tasmania's reputation for quality primary produce and our natural environment. Our relative pest and disease free status is a competitive advantage for our farmers in the market-place.

The Hodgman Government is committed to ensuring Tasmania's biosecurity system continues to respond to the modern risks and challenges of increased trade, Tasmania's place in a global market-place, with more visitors coming to our island home.



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We will:

- Invest \$2 million over four years for truck and machinery wash down stations;
- Provide \$510,000 over four years to expand Biosecurity Tasmania's collaboration with industry groups and farmers to plan for and manage post-border biosecurity risks and to support on-farm biosecurity hygiene strategies;
- Provide \$480,000 over four years to boost biosecurity on the Bass Strait Islands.

Modernise Tasmania's biosecurity legislation by consulting with industry to finalise and table in Parliament our Biosecurity Bill, currently in draft, to streamline seven existing Acts into one legislative framework (in one Act).

Support for Organics

A re-elected majority Hodgman Liberal Government will invest \$230,000 over four years to work with organic accrediting bodies and assist farmers, producers, and agri-food businesses interested in transitioning to organic production methods, certification and market development.

Fracking Moratorium

A re-elected majority Hodgman Liberal Government would extend for another five years a moratorium on fracking for the purposes of hydrocarbon extraction on agricultural land, protecting our valuable farmland, premium agri-food brand and markets.

Action on Climate Change

A re-elected majority Hodgman Liberal Government will continue to implement our *Climate Action 21: Tasmania's Climate Change Action Plan 2017-21*, a nation leading plan that will reaffirm Tasmania's position of leadership in responding to this serious issue and leverage off our natural strengths, particularly in the area of renewable energy development.

Underpinning the new strategy is a commitment to establishing a long-term target to achieve zero net emissions for Tasmania by 2050. This target aligns with the Paris Agreement to limit global warming to well below two degrees above pre-industrial levels. In addition, the Government has set a target for 100 percent self-sufficiency in renewable energy by 2022, and we are well on our way to achieving this through investments in existing hydro assets and new major wind farm developments.



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In the 2017-18 State Budget, we announced \$3 million to support the delivery of the plan through the Tasmanian Climate Change Office, which represents the biggest investment in supporting action on climate change by any Tasmanian Government.

Investment in Parks and Wildlife

A re-elected majority Hodgman Liberal Government will invest \$51 million in the Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS). Our commitments include:

- \$20 million to identify and construct Tasmania's next multi-day, hut-based bush-walk;
- \$16 million for visitor infrastructure, including \$4 million on Maria Island, \$3 million for the public huts on the Overland Track;
- \$8 million for maintenance; and
- \$7 million for employment of an additional 15 rangers and field.

This is in addition to the \$35 million we have committed to support the development of a Cableway and iconic new tourism experience at Cradle Mountain.

Cost

Initiatives not funded elsewhere:

Development and rollout of the illegal rubbish disposal app development - \$100,000.

Funding to the Raptor Refuge for their reporting hotline - \$7,000 per annum.

Additional support for KAB – Tasmania - \$15,000 per annum.

Total: \$188,000 over four years.