

**Nick McKim MP**  
Greens Leader  
Member for Franklin  
**Tasmanian Greens**

Monday, 15 March 2010

Louise Clark  
Executive Director  
Launceston Chamber of Commerce  
PO Box 1854  
LAUNCESTON TAS 7250

Dear Louise,

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Launceston Chamber of Commerce 2010 state election survey.

I sincerely apologise for the delay in getting back to you, but I am now pleased to provide you with a comprehensive response with most of our policy commitments relevant to your membership now announced.

Please find our response enclosed.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nick McKim". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Nick McKim.**  
**Greens Leader**  
**Tasmanian Greens**

## **Infrastructure:**

- **A regional infrastructure plan**

- (i) **What is your long term infrastructure plan for the Northern region?**

The Greens support a long term regional infrastructure plan for Launceston that provides an environment for strong and sustainable economic growth, increased employment and prosperity for the region.

We have already committed to funding infrastructure initiatives including \$35 million over three years to build Dedicated Learning Centres to improve education outcomes, \$30 million over three years to build and staff a network of Tasmanian Life Health Centres, alongside the 30 Child and Family Centres to be constructed around the state, and \$32.5 million for a Greens' rail revitalisation package to deliver greater productivity and better road safety outcomes.

We look forward to working with the community, and key stakeholders such as the LCC to further develop and progress this plan.

- **Bell Bay**

- (ii) **What is the Greens' commitment to ensuring the future of Bell Bay as the state's major port facility including improving road and particularly rail access?**

The Greens are committed to ensuring the future of Bell Bay as the state's major port facility including improving road and rail access. As previously discussed we would invest \$32.5 million in a rail revitalisation package to improve freight services to and from Bell Bay industrial area.

- **Flood Levee funding**

- (i) **Will the Greens if elected provide additional financial support required to assist in covering the funding shortfall to Launceston City Council to ensure the completion of this vital city project?**

On February 7<sup>th</sup> Greens' Member for Bass Kim Booth announced a \$12 million package over two years to address the shortfall in levee funding, and to establish a statutory regional catchment authority to prevent further silting of the Tamar Estuary and Esk Rivers.

\$11.5 million will go to urgent restoration work on Launceston levees. This amount would require matched dollar-for-dollar funding from the Federal Government to make up the current \$23 million levee funding shortfall. The Greens' commitment has been given after consultation with stakeholders including the Launceston City Council.

\$500,000 will go towards the establishment of a Tamar and Esk Catchment Management Authority. The Greens have advocated for such a body for over ten years. The need for such a body was acknowledged by a Legislative Council Parliamentary Committee last year.

For further information please refer to:

[http://mps.tas.greens.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2010/02/Feb8\\_Launceston-Levee-Package-of-12-million\\_K-Booth\\_MR.pdf](http://mps.tas.greens.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2010/02/Feb8_Launceston-Levee-Package-of-12-million_K-Booth_MR.pdf)

- (ii) Given the projects completion date when could Council expect to receive funding?**

The Greens would work to progress this issue when Parliament returns so that funding could be assured as soon as possible.

- **Evandale Main Road Upgrade**

- (i) We are seeking a firm funding commitment and time frame on that commitment from the Greens to the reclassification of Evandale Main Road from Category 2 Freight Road to a Category 1 Trunk Road and the subsequent reconstruction of the road to create a dual carriageway from the Breadalbane roundabout to the Launceston Airport.**

The Greens believe for too long politicians have made decisions for prioritising road projects, which means that often projects of most need have not been funded. The Greens would take this out of the hands of politicians, and base it on road safety and need.

- **Water and Sewerage**

- (i) Given the reform has already taken place and the water and sewerage bodies established could you outline the Greens' long term strategy for water and sewerage going forward?**

The Greens have announced a long term strategy to reduce Water and Sewerage bills for all Tasmanians in our cost-neutral *Real Water and Sewerage Reform* package.

This package will deliver lower water and sewerage bills than the Labor and Liberal alternatives by mirroring the original framework approved by the Tasmanian Economic Regulator.

The Greens will freeze water and sewerage charges for two years, and require more appropriate borrowing by the water corporations.

Our *Real Water and Sewerage Reform* will also:

- Deliver lower Water and Sewerage bills than the Labor and Liberal alternatives;
- Provide for much-needed water and sewerage infrastructure upgrades;
- Roll-out water meters across the entire state;
- Strike an appropriate balance between landlords and tenants; and,
- Encourage individual investment in water efficiency and saving devices.

For more information please go to,

[http://mps.tas.greens.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2010/02/Feb26\\_Real-Water-and-Sewerage-Reform\\_N-McKim\\_ATTACH.pdf](http://mps.tas.greens.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2010/02/Feb26_Real-Water-and-Sewerage-Reform_N-McKim_ATTACH.pdf)

- **Public transport**

**(i) Can you outline the Greens' policy and commitment to public transport and sustainable transport and in particular services in Launceston and the surrounding region?**

The Tasmanian Greens are strongly committed to improving public transport and creating more sustainable transport options for all Tasmanians, and have announced a \$15 million investment over three years to provide free public transport for every student in Tasmania.

We have also committed to:

- \$1 million over three years to develop and implement a comprehensive i-bus timetable and ticketing system that includes both public and private operators.
- \$500,000 to develop an expanded MiniMetro FlexiBus branch system for regional areas whether they are serviced or not by the main arterial Metro 'trunks'.
- \$300,000 for a Launceston-based Wireless Bus pilot study to drive the State's transition to utilising wireless connectivity technology on Tasmania's public transport systems.
- \$8 million to retrofit and redevelop Public Sector workplaces with end-of-trip facilities to improve cycling to work options.

For more information go to:

[http://mps.tas.greens.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2010/02/i-Bus-Connecting-Community-with-Buses\\_T-Morris\\_Feb2010.pdf](http://mps.tas.greens.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2010/02/i-Bus-Connecting-Community-with-Buses_T-Morris_Feb2010.pdf)

[http://mps.tas.greens.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2010/02/Feb24\\_Free-Student-Travel\\_N-McKim\\_ATTACH.pdf](http://mps.tas.greens.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2010/02/Feb24_Free-Student-Travel_N-McKim_ATTACH.pdf)

## **Location of State Government Agencies and Staff**

- (i) **What is the Greens' policy position on the location/relocation of appropriate State Government Agencies and Staff to regional centres?**

The Greens understand that regional Tasmania deserves equal access to Public Sector services. We would work on a case by case basis to determine an appropriate location for public servants and Public Sector facilities.

## **Business taxation:**

- **Land tax reform**

- (i) **What is the Greens policy position on land tax reform using the Government's current reforms as a minimum benchmark?**

The Tasmanian Greens proposed in Parliament that the government consider imposing a 10% cap on increases in land tax bills be introduced as an interim measure to reduce the price shock of land tax bills that have massively increased from last year until after a review of Tasmania's taxation arrangements.

The Greens understand that many businesses and families are struggling under massive increases in electricity prices and land tax bills, and new water and sewerage bills which have not been offset by equivalent decreases in rates.

An interim cap of a 10% increase would reduce the price shock that many Tasmanians are suffering as land tax bills appear in their letterboxes. No business or family should be expected to budget for the kind of massive spikes in the cost of basics like electricity, water and sewerage and land tax, yet today the government displayed no understanding of the pain being felt by so many Tasmanians.

- **Reduction of Payroll Tax**

- (i) **Do the Greens have a policy position on the reduction of payroll tax or pay roll tax relief for business and if so could you please outline that position?**

The Greens understand that Payroll Tax is a tax on jobs. Subsequent to the Henry Review, the Greens would review taxation with a view to lowering Land Tax and Payroll Tax.

## **Stamp duty**

- (i) Do the Greens have a policy position on the reduction or abolition of stamp duty on instruments such as non-residential conveyances, leases, mortgages, credit arrangements for business and if so could you please outline that position?

The Tasmanian Greens will cut tax imposts on Tasmanian business. This includes the removal of stamp duties on insurance, and a review of payroll and land tax pending the outcome of the Henry Review. We believe payroll and land tax are taxes on job creation and investment and will seek to move Tasmania's tax base towards other revenue sources including taxes on pollution.

It is our policy to abolish stamp duty on insurances in line with calls by consumer and taxpayer groups to benefit businesses, ordinary citizens, community groups, and to promote increased insurance coverage.

## **Economic development**

- **Commitment to AFL at Aurora Stadium**

- (i) **Do the Greens support AFL @ Aurora Stadium?**
- (ii) **Do you support the current arrangement with the Hawthorn Football Club?**
- (iii) **In government will you make it a priority to renegotiate the current agreement and lobby for an additional roster match at Aurora given this agreement expires in 2011?**
- (iv) **What will be your funding commitment to ensure the continued success of this arrangement?**

The Greens are committed to AFL at Aurora Stadium, and have announced our policy initiative: *A Home for Hawks: Keeping the Hawthorn Football Club at Aurora Stadium.*

The policy can be found at,

[http://mps.tas.greens.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2010/02/A-Home-for-Hawks-\\_N-McKim-K-Booth\\_Feb2010.pdf](http://mps.tas.greens.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2010/02/A-Home-for-Hawks-_N-McKim-K-Booth_Feb2010.pdf)

The policy will seek to negotiate a new contract of up to five years with the Hawthorn Football Club, and provide further support for local Tasmanian football, and invest \$1 million from revenue generated from signage and ticket sales at Aurora into grassroots football in Tasmania.

The Greens will honour the current Hawks' deal but when it expires in 2012 we will seek to negotiate a new contract for up to five years which will see four to five premiership matches, and one pre-season game, played at Aurora stadium.

Currently, an estimated \$1 million annually flows to Hawthorn from signage and ticket receipts at Aurora, and under the Greens' plan this will instead be directed to Tasmanian grassroots football, including country and junior football clubs.

We are committed to keeping the AFL in Tasmania but we do not think that maintaining naming rights sponsorship of an AFL club is the top priority. We would like to see our own stand-alone Tasmanian football team in the AFL.

- **National Broadband Network**

- (i) **What can we expect from the Greens in terms of funding/assistance/educational programs aimed at assisting particularly small to medium businesses in regional centres to take advantage of these opportunities?**
- (ii) **Ideally these programmes should be delivered through professional or peak industry bodies at the local level by those that understand regional priorities. Will you deliver these programmes to the regions in such a manner?**

The Tasmanian Greens are committed to ensuring Tasmanians maximise the opportunities offered by the roll-out of the National Broadband Network.

We have committed to:

- Establishing the Centre for Broadband Innovation. A cross-disciplinary research institute dedicated to maximising the social, environmental and economic benefits of broadband technologies
- Investing \$5 million over three years to establish the Institute in partnership with the University of Tasmania
- Basing the Institute at the University of Tasmania to foster innovation across a broad range of schools and disciplines
- Facilitating partnership programs with the private sector, and other academic institutions for research and trials of new e-technologies
- Establishing within the Centre a physical test-bed laboratory, which will provide a state-of-the-art facility for network design and planning, product testing etc, and will be linked to other Tasmanian campuses, and national universities and research institutions.

- **State and regional planning reform**

- (i) **What is the Greens' commitment to the current framework and discussion around regional planning schemes?**

The Greens are committed to an independent, fair and accessible planning system, which is crucial in guiding sensible development and resource management, protecting conservation values and

the public interest. An impartial and well-resourced arbitrator is crucial to the success of any planning system, as is the encouragement of public participation.

The Tasmanian Greens support a state planning authority, with comprehensive powers of investigation and review, that is independent of both government and prospective proponents of development, allows public representation, integrates with local government, other planning bodies and tribunals, and has a transparent process of appeal.

**(i) How do you see a regional planning scheme fitting within the state planning framework and policy?**

The Greens support the principal of regional planning. We would seek to reform through legislation, the entire planning system in Tasmania; review all planning schemes in the state, to be updated in accordance with state policies and planning directives to ensure consistency and improve certainty for both developers and communities; provide funding or in-kind support to local councils to undertake the necessary studies and attain the professional planning advice required to properly review planning schemes; assist local councils to integrate state policies with municipal planning schemes and legislate for avenues of public appeal within any state or municipal planning process, free from restrictive cost.

- **Wi Fi / WiMax trial**

**(i) Will the Greens commit to funding a similar trial in our tourism precincts in the Launceston CBD and surrounding region?**

The Tasmanian Greens will implement a \$300,000 Launceston-based Wireless Bus pilot study to drive the State's transition to utilising wireless connectivity technology on Tasmania's public transport systems.

The Greens will fund the installation of Wi-Fi devices on Launceston's Metro bus fleet for a trial of 18 months, and would also develop partnership arrangements to extend the trial to targeted private operators.

Highlights of the Greens' *Launceston's Wi-Fi Bus Trial: Wireless On the Move* include:

- Investing \$300, 000 to develop a Launceston based pilot trial of free Wi-Fi on buses over 18 months
- Trial Wi-Fi on regional school bus routes in partnership with private operators
- Make the St John St Bus Terminal a Wi-Fi hotspot, with coverage across the Mall
- Involve both Metro Tasmania vehicles and private operators in the pilot trial, including Launceston City Council's Tiger Bus service

- Develop partnerships between the University of Tasmania, the Department of Economic Development, Tourism and the Arts, and the private sector to monitor the trial and develop funding models for further expansion across Tasmania
- Develop a promotions, advertising and sponsorship package to cover operational costs.

For more details go to:

[http://mps.tas.greens.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2010/02/Wi-Fi-on-Launceston-Buses\\_K-Booth\\_Feb20101.pdf](http://mps.tas.greens.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2010/02/Wi-Fi-on-Launceston-Buses_K-Booth_Feb20101.pdf)

- **Skilled workforce**

- (i) **In order to create some certainty what do Greens propose as a solution to achieving outcomes that will address these issues into the future?**

The Tasmanian Greens have placed a high priority on ensuring the Tasmanian workplace is skilled to meet the demands of an ever-changing economic environment.

We will establish an independent Skills and Training Commission to provide advice to the government regarding training and skill capacity-building needs identified by workers and employers, to help address workforce participate levels and skill retention concerns.

The proposed Commission will:

- Consist of seven members representing the University of Tasmania, the tertiary education sector, Unions, NGOs, business and community
- Conduct a comprehensive skill audit of the Tasmanian workforce, and those seeking to participate in the workforce
- Develop a whole-of-government five-year strategic plan for skills and workforce development, incorporating the necessary shift to a carbon constrained economy and developing opportunities in the New Green Economy
- Provide government with assistance, advice and recommendations
- Provide leadership on training matters
- Advise on the recognition of skills gained by people trained internationally
- Liaise with industry, government, community, and education stakeholders.

The Skills and Training Commission will have a dedicated budget of \$200,000 per annum with administrative support provided by the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

The Tasmanian Greens will also allocate \$36 million to fix problems in post-grade 10 education

including restoring our Colleges and TAFE, and the TAFE brand, addressing retention, numeracy, and literacy in a meaningful way through investing in Early Years, enhance 'vertical integration' through K-12, colleges and beyond, and reinstate and create more Pathway Planner and School Psychologist positions.

- **Business Development**

**(i) Could you outline any other policies that you will take into the 2010 election that will support future business development in Launceston and Northern Tasmania should you win Government?**

The Tasmanian Greens have a strong commitment to creating an enterprise-friendly Tasmania, fostering innovative business practises, and supporting small business.

We have proposed a \$900,000 Small Business support package. The package will boost funding to the state's nine Business Enterprise Centres, establish an independent Office of the Small Business Commissioner, and create a new Minister for Small Business.

Highlights of the Greens' \$900, 000 *Small Business Package: Assisting Small Business Assist Itself*, include:

- \$450, 000 to expand Business Mentor Services to support and enhance Tasmania's nine Business Enterprise Centres, including the Launceston Business and Employment Centre;
- \$450, 000 to establish the independent Office of the Small Business Commissioner; and,
- Commitment to creating a Minister for Small Business.

For more information go to

[http://mps.tas.greens.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2010/02/Small-Business-Support-Package-Part1\\_N-McKim\\_Feb2010.pdf](http://mps.tas.greens.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2010/02/Small-Business-Support-Package-Part1_N-McKim_Feb2010.pdf)

The Tasmanian Greens have also proposed a \$17.25 million Small Business Success Through Innovation program, which will see an annual Small Business and Innovation Roundtable established, plus a range of financial incentive and grant schemes.

Feature of this package include:

- \$750, 000 to fund an annual Small Business and Innovation Roundtable consisting of at least the following membership:
- Small Business Council representative
- Government Minister (Greens' proposed Minister for Small Business)

- Greens' proposed independent Small Business Commissioner
- Representative of Women in Small Businesses
- Community Sector NGO representative
- \$8 million joint Commonwealth-State Innovation Vouchers Scheme for Small Business
- \$5 million to establish an 'Unlocking Small Business Potential' grant scheme
- \$2 million to establish Innovation and Enterprise education programs through schools, colleges and university campuses
- \$1.5 million 'Women Innovating Small Business' Program

For more information visit

[http://mps.tas.greens.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2010/02/Small-Business-Success-Through-Innovation-Part2\\_N-McKim\\_Feb2010.pdf](http://mps.tas.greens.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2010/02/Small-Business-Success-Through-Innovation-Part2_N-McKim_Feb2010.pdf)