Letter to the editor
The Mercury.

29 May 2013

**TCT not happy with a ‘hint of green’**

Contrary to Nick McKim’s claim that there had been a ‘gradual greening up of the state’s financial priorities’ (‘McKim happy with a hint of green’, Mercury 24 May 2013), this State Budget is the most environmentally unfriendly in memory.

I cannot see the greening process happening. Perhaps this is because I look for action on dark green nature conservation issues and the Tasmanian Greens are content to focus on pale Green issues.

Mr McKim has focused on two rather tokenistic funding initiatives of the Greens; implementing a ban on plastic shopping bags, which is a small first step but will not guarantee a reduction in the total amount of plastic consumed nor littering, and a pathetic $50,000 for a feasibility study on container deposit legislation.

Also he welcomed $100,000 to investigate the feasibility of the Greens’ proposal for a centre aimed at researching better remediation of mine sites. While this is a good idea, it is an other example of funding for an investigation only and not a commitment and it is about cleaning up damage to the natural world rather than protecting it before it gets damaged.

I would expect the Greens to support prevention and repair, but they failed to comment on the Parks and Wildlife Service receiving a 3% budget cut which further reduces its capacity to manage reserves and leaves as unbudgeted the government’s commitment to create an independent Parks and Reserves Authority.

The highlight in the state budget was Bryan Green’s commitment to an additional $250,000 funding for the Tasmanian Planning Commission. This increase in funding is recognition of the importance of delivering new modern planning schemes, which we hope will deliver improved environmental protection and greater efficiency for the business community.

---

_tasmanian conservation trust inc_

_Letter 2, 191 Liverpool Street, Hobart TAS 7000 Australia_
_P (03) 6234 3552  F (03) 6231 2491  E tct6@bigpond.com  ABN 63051237520_
The other highlight was Brian Wightman’s announcement of funding for the Botanical Gardens’ threatened flora seed bank, although it is maintaining an important conservation facility which has been funded by the Kew Botanical Gardens for its first five years.

So it looks like Labor is out-pointing the Greens on the environment but it won’t take much for the Tasmanian Liberals to be greener than both!! What about it Matthew Groom?

Peter McGlone
Director
0406 380 545