



tasmanian conservation trust inc

Media Release

3 March 2010

TCT calls for bi-partisan support for Parks and Wildlife funding

The Tasmanian Conservation Trust welcomes the Tasmanian Greens' promise, made yesterday, for an additional \$10 million per year for the Parks and Wildlife Service and calls on the Labor and Liberal parties to match this promise.

TCT Director Peter McGlone said today that "For many years the Parks and Wildlife Service has been starved of resources and an additional \$10 million per year, if delivered, will go a long way towards addressing the huge backlog of work required to maintain Tasmania's 2.5 million hectares of reserves.

"The natural and cultural values of Tasmania's reserve system have been eroding due to government neglect and increasing demands.

"The Parks and Wildlife Service manages 40% of Tasmania but has a budget and work force smaller than most Tasmanian municipal councils.

"We currently have a world-class reserve system but a Parks and Wildlife Service which is far from world class.

"The TCT calls on the three major parties to take a bi-partisan approach to Parks and Wildlife Service funding and back the Greens' plan. This is too important an issue for parties to score political points over."

While supporting the promise of extra funds, the TCT also cautioned all parties to ensure extra funds actually benefit Tasmania's reserves.

"It is essential that any new funding hits the ground and is used to employ rangers to do ecological burns, control weeds, close unwanted vehicle tracks and catch offenders," Mr McGlone continued.

"We don't want to see more people employed in head office or rangers being stuck in doors solely dealing with tourists.

"The TCT was also encouraged by the Greens' support for threatened species and feral animal management but urged them to look to provide even further funding for these vital areas," Mr McGlone concluded.

Floor 2, 191 Liverpool Street, Hobart TAS 7000 Australia

p (03) 6234 3552 **f** (03) 6231 2491 **e** tct6@bigpond.com ABN 63091237520

Further information:

Peter McGlone

Director

Mobile 0406 380 545