



Empowering Local Coast Care Groups

Protecting Tasmania's spectacular coasts

*The Tasmanian Greens will provide **\$300,000** to empower community organisations to protect Tasmania's coastline.*

Tasmania is blessed with some of the world's most pristine coastline and it is essential that the groups who work to protect it have adequate funding to carry out their crucial work. The Tasmanian Greens will invest \$300,000 over four years to build capacity in community organisations across Tasmania working to protect and repair our coast.

> THE ISSUE

- Tasmania's coastline is world renowned for its spectacular beaches and rugged coastal landscapes.
- The contribution of Tasmania's coastline to the health and wellbeing of its citizens, the economic fortunes of many of its industries, and to its cultural and artistic endeavors is invaluable.
- Despite their importance, coastal areas across Tasmania are threatened by encroaching human activity, from recreational pursuits to litter and pollution along with other consequences of human activity such as invasive species.
- Tasmania's coastline is also vulnerable to changing sea-levels and an increase in the frequency and severity of extreme weather events as a consequence of a changing climate.
- It is essential that, in the face of these threats, and in recognition of the importance of coastal areas, community organizations have the skills and the funds they need to build resilience in our coastline through remediation and conservation works.
- Limited funding for community groups means that important remedial or conservation work is going underfunded, placing stress on coastal areas as well as on the groups and individuals who devote their time and energy to conserving them.

> OUR PLAN

- The Tasmanian Greens will create a **\$300,000 Coast Care Fund** to be spent over four years on grants of up to \$10,000 for community organizations working to protect or remediate coastal areas.
- The Tasmanian Greens will ensure the continued autonomy of community groups working in coastal areas by consulting with community organisations in establishing the terms of reference for dispensing of the grants.
- It is envisaged that funding could be made available for a range of projects including feral species removal, native species replanting, litter clean-ups and upgrading or repairing public access tracks.
- The fund will be administered through the existing grants structure within the Department of Premier and Cabinet in consultation with the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and the Environment.
- By investing now in increasing the resilience of our coastline and the skills of those who work to protect it, we can build capacity and expertise into coast care organisations to respond to coastal threats in future.
- By ensuring that Tasmania has the organisations, people and expertise to effectively protect our coastlines, we, in turn, ensure we have the capacity to respond to threats to ecosystem services provided by Tasmania's coastline.
- By increasing the resources available to community groups, the Tasmanian Greens also seek to engage more people in their community by providing more opportunities for organisations working to conserve coastal areas to work with locals to take care of, and appreciate the importance of, their local environment.



> Tasmania’s coastline at a glance

- Tasmania’s coastline is 4882 kilometers long, the longest coastline per unit area of any Australian state or territory.
- No point in Tasmania is further than 115 kilometers from the coast, highlighting the importance of Tasmania’s coastal areas for all Tasmanians.
- The 2013 *Keep Australia Beautiful National Litter Index* found that Tasmania’s beaches were, on average, home to 54 pieces of litter per 1000 sqm; above the national average of 49.
- Tasmania’s coastline is of considerable importance to Tasmanian Aboriginal people and is the site of numerous historical and cultural sites, many of which are under threat from coastal degradation.
- Tasmania’s coastline is home to a broad range of species, both those unique to Tasmania and those that travel many thousands of kilometers to nest and breed here.

“Tasmania’s stunning, wild coastline is one of our most important ecological, social and economic assets. We need to be sure we properly support those Tasmanians who are looking after it.”

Nick McKim MP, Greens Leader.

>References

- *The National Litter Index 2012-13.* Keep Australia Beautiful, 2013.
- "Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment." <http://www.dpiw.tas.gov.au>

> Coast Care Fund Investment

	2013-14 Budget	2014-15 Forward Estimate	2015-16 Forward Estimate	2016-17 Forward Estimate
Coast Care Fund	\$'000 75	\$'000 75	\$'000 75	\$'000 75

> YOUR TEAM IN STATE PARLIAMENT



> WANT MORE INFO?

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