



Tasmanian Greens Party Policy 2014

Food

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The Greens have a vision for a Tasmania where food produced here is safe for our health, affordable, derived sustainably, ethically and organically, as well as diminishing our carbon emissions and reliance on fossil fuels.

Fundamental to Tasmania's claims to being a clean, green and clever state is the way we produce and consume food. Tasmania has a unique opportunity to position itself as a place where food is produced ethically, organically and sustainably. This would further our economy and the Tasmanian brand.

Consumers are increasingly conscious of the impact their dietary choices have on the environment. We have a fundamental right and an increasing need to know what is in our food, how it is produced and where it comes from. Farmers and consumers have a right to grow and consume non-GE foods. Our environmental footprint is affected by the sustainability of our food production practices.

Food production must be regulated to minimise health risks from pesticides, herbicides, antibiotics, growth hormones, food additives and food-borne diseases. The Precautionary Principle should guide regulation of food production. Sustainable farming practices must be encouraged to achieve this.

Measures

Economy

The Tasmanian Greens will work towards:

1. continuing to develop the Tasmanian brand based on ethical, organic and sustainable food production;
2. promotion of the economic benefits of sustainable production;
3. encouraging local production for food security;
4. encouraging farmers markets and community gardens to provide fresh produce;
5. encouraging the development of a 'Forage Kitchen' as an incubator for small businesses - a place where entrepreneurs can produce their products legally and affordably, get advice and support from other business owners, and find new markets for their goods.

Public Information

The Tasmanian Greens will work towards:

6. ensuring that people are fully informed about what is in our food by introducing "Truth in Labelling" laws to provide customers with details of the origin and the chemical and genetic status of food;
7. encouraging the development of food forests as part of urban agriculture grounded in the concept of permaculture, which means it will be perennial and self-sustaining.

Education

The Tasmanian Greens will work towards:

8. providing for curriculum studies of nutrition, basic cooking and gardening skills, and the origins and production of food;

9. encouraging the production of organic fruit and vegetable gardens at all schools.

Environment

The Tasmanian Greens will work towards:

10. encouraging sustainable food production;
11. encouraging organic and sustainable agriculture that protects biodiversity, and the genetic diversity of vegetables, grain seeds, fruit and livestock;
12. supporting heritage seed banks and fruit tree distribution;
13. maintaining and protecting our GE-free brand by making permanent the current GE-free crop moratorium;
14. ensuring a clean drinking water supply;
15. cleaning up and protecting our waterways.

Health

The Tasmanian Greens will work towards:

16. working towards a food supply free of pesticides, herbicides, antibiotics, growth hormones, food additives, and food-borne diseases;
17. phasing out pesticides that have been identified as being possible and probable carcinogens, endocrine disruptors, and toxic organophosphates;
18. reviewing maximum residue levels for all pesticides and fungicides and set new limits on the basis of children's tolerances;
19. routinely testing imported food to ensure it does not contain illegal residues;
20. making chemical trespass an offence;
21. ensuring labeling for all food that contains GE ingredients.