



Tasmanian Greens

Tuesday, 19 March 2024

Dr Peter Lewis
ANTAR President and National Director (Interim)
Via: peter@antar.org.au

Dear Peter,

Thank you for the correspondence on behalf of ANTAR and the specific questions regarding First Nations people.

We are strong supporters of the palawa community and fundamentally believe in Truth, Treaty, self-determination, and the return of land.

We have a parliamentary history of advocating for palawa interests and, in a previous parliament have played an important role in lutruwita/Tasmania's formal apology to the stolen generation.

Specific to your questions we are proud of our policy platform, the details of which you can find [here](#).

- We strongly support the Closing the Gap agreement and lament the lack of action at the state level. Tasmania regularly reports poorly against targets and more need to be done to make genuine progress on specific actions and targets.

It is clear that additional investment and focus needs to be placed on the Closing the Gap agreement and obligations, with accountability for delivery a key measure of Ministerial performance. We support all efforts to genuinely progress outcomes in line with targets.

- The Greens have comprehensive justice and youth policy platforms and a range of initiatives that will assist with Aboriginal over-incarceration rates and youth justice issues.

We are fully aware of the over representation of Aboriginal people in the adult prison system, youth detention centres and out of home care and the dire needs to increase resourcing and focus on all of these areas.

We have announced a range of investments and structural reforms that, while not explicitly carving out components for Aboriginal people, will inherently

increase capacity in Aboriginal-specific early intervention, therapeutic, diversional, and other support programs.

- The Greens strongly support progressing Truth-telling and Treaty, by whatever means. In lutruwita, theoretically there is a government-auspiced process that has selected and endorsed an Aboriginal Advisory Group, however we are highly sceptical of the bona-fides of the current government and their commitment to actually delivering on a process of truth and treaty.

We also recognise tuylupa tunapri, an Aboriginal community elected delegation that has been tasked with engaging with government to progress these issues. This delegation has drafted legislation it believes could progress issues of truth and Treaty. To date, our understanding is that tuylupa tunapri has largely been snubbed.

- We explicitly support new laws in lutruwita that actually protect Aboriginal cultural heritage and empower Aboriginal people with genuine decision-making powers over the future of Aboriginal heritage.

It is well understood that current laws fail to protect heritage values. In July 2021, the [relevant Minister tabled a report](#) in parliament that explicitly recognises our laws are failing Aboriginal heritage. It states, ‘it is clear that the Act itself does not provide effective mechanisms for protection, nor does it adequately consider the significance of Aboriginal heritage in the context of Aboriginal culture.’

We believe the Tasmanian government is deliberately delaying progress on new legislation and the Greens will work to ensure reform of Aboriginal heritage protection laws is prioritised to actually protect values including cultural landscapes and intangible values like stories and songlines. Aboriginal people must have a credible role in decision making on the future of their heritage.

- The Greens have a full suite of housing policies that will assist Aboriginal people with housing needs. This includes the construction of new social and affordable housing options, rental reforms that control rents and end no cause evictions and specific actions that progress action on youth housing and homelessness.

Thanks again for your correspondence and commitment to reform that benefits First Nations people. I trust this response demonstrates a strong commitment of the Tasmanian Greens to progressing justice, equality, and dignity for palawa people.

Please get back in touch if you have any queries.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Rosalie Woodruff MP

Tasmanian Greens Leader and Member for Franklin
Spokesperson on Aboriginal Affairs

Vica Bayley MP

Tasmanian Greens Member for Clark