

# Australian Labor Party



## **ALP Tasmanian Branch** State Platform 2013

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## FORWARD

The Australian Labor Party Tasmanian Branch State Platform is a constantly evolving statement of principles and policies, underpinned by enduring Labor values.

This State Platform, most recently updated at the 2013 State Conference, held in Burnie, on 29-30 June 2013 sets out the current and future policy framework for the ALP Tasmanian Branch.

The platform in 2013 was developed by our six policy platform committees which make up the chapters of this platform. These are:

- Education, Skills and Technology
- Governance, Finance and Justice
- Natural Resources and Energy
- Health, Human Services and Community Development
- Tourism, Climate Change, Environment, Cultural Heritage and Arts
- Infrastructure and Transport



The policy committees, consisting of rank and file party members, meet regularly throughout the year and discuss to develop policy statements that define the Australian Labor Party.

All policy platform committees are directed by policy motions introduced and voted on by delegates at our annual State Conference and therefore represent the direct policy ideas of our members. The State Platform is then endorsed by the state Conference through a democratic deliberation of our party membership.

The State Platform in 2013 provides party members with a clear direction for the future of the ALP Tasmanian Branch. It is a socially and economically progressive policy and is fundamentally underpinned by the founding principles and thinking that unites us all as Labor party members.

I encourage all members and supporters to help directly shape the future policy direction of our party and to continue to contribute to the State Platform in the future.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'John Dowling'. The signature is stylized and fluid.

**John Dowling**  
**State Secretary**

**20 November 2013**

## CHAPTER 1: A STATEMENT OF LABOR'S BELIEFS

### Preamble

- 1 This document affirms the fundamental beliefs, values and aspirations of the Australian Labor Party (ALP), Tasmania Branch as stated in the Objectives of its Constitution.
- 2 The ALP is constituted by a widely representative community of interest framed in accordance with the belief that it is a fundamental right of Australians to belong to a political organisation of their choice. This right to freedom of association is a critical tenet of Australian democracy, which exemplifies the aims and aspirations of the ALP.
- 3 Historically, the ALP is the main voice through which such rights have been secured in Australia. The ALP will continue to strengthen and reinforce processes which assist in the elimination of discrimination and inequity.
- 4 The ALP has as its central goal the political and social task of ensuring that all members of the community are afforded dignity and fairness, by government, by the legal process and by each one to another. In this way the ALP gives effect to its democratic socialist foundations and principles in a way which is contemporary and relevant in achieving its political and social values. In doing so, the ALP emphasises the importance of a pluralist and multicultural society with mutually strong and complementary public and private sectors.
- 5 The ALP therefore recognises and endorses Australia's mixed economic system, where both the public and private sectors contribute to economic and social activity through the provision of a variety of goods and services. It recognises that there are inherited and established imbalances and believes that market forces left to their own devices deliver inordinate economic power and influence into the hands of a few. The ALP believes that there is a need for strategic intervention by government in the economic life of society to redress individual and community imbalances, whether based on disadvantage or discrimination. In this respect, the relevance of a democratic socialist party in the contemporary national and global system concerns the pursuit of social justice and its accompanying goals of full employment and poverty eradication. This demands that government be appropriately interventionist and regulatory in order to ensure that individual enterprise and private capital investment occurs alongside equal access to opportunity, environmental protection, necessary labour rights, and benchmark welfare entitlements.

### Principles of social justice

- 6 The ALP believe that all people should be given equal access and opportunity to participate in all policy positions of the ALP. All members of the community are entitled, and must be able, to access the resources of the state, whether those resources be community property, community services or community assistance. The ALP will strive to ensure an integrated equity strategy which allocates public resources and delivers public services according to the fundamental social justice principles of equity, access, participation and fairness.
- 7 The ALP believes it is incongruous to favour the views of any sectional interest in society to the detriment of the broader community interest. The ALP acknowledges that this also

requires measures to redress social and economic inequity. The ALP is committed to addressing disadvantage.

### **Principles of community partnership**

- 8 The ALP believe government policy to be of little value without widespread community understanding, participation and support. An ALP Government will work to build a spirit of cooperation with all members and sections of the Tasmanian community.
- 9 The ALP believes that a cooperative effort is essential to enriching community life where individuals can pursue their goals in harmony with a community. The ALP is committed to developing a cooperative spirit at neighbourhood and community levels

### **Principles of good government**

- 10 The ALP regard the role of government as central to meeting and nurturing society's expectations and needs. The ALP believes that government plays a number of strategic and critical roles in planning and facilitating the overall social, environmental and economic objectives of the community.
- 11 The ALP believe it is government which is best able to provide the strategic leadership and longer term planning needed to give effect to a vision for future society. Whilst the private sector has a critical role in the provision and delivery of goods and services which underpin social expectations, government establishes and implements the framework and mechanisms for ensuring that those expectations are met.
- 12 The ALP believe that government has a role in strategically managing and directly facilitating the achievement of these objectives, through the judicious allocation of public resources and by ensuring an appropriate institutional and legislative framework and, where necessary, market regulation and management.
- 13 The ALP believes that the decisions and actions of government must be relevant, transparent and accountable. This requires public consultation as a standard practice of good government, public disclosure of policy and fiscal decisions, and continued reform of public institutions, including of the parliament itself.

### **Tasmanian Labor's fundamental goals**

- 14 The ALP believe in the right of all people to have access to sustenance, shelter, education, employment, health care, a clean and healthy environment, freedom and protection by the law. The ALP recognises economic impediments to the provision of all services and that it is the duty of government to ensure that these services are accessible to all.
- 15 The ALP recognises the inter relationship between social, economic and environmental goals. It believes that dignified and gainful employment is a social and economic right. The ALP recognises the responsibility to future generations to care for the natural environment upon which all economic and social activity ultimately depends.

## CHAPTER 2: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND TECHNOLOGY

### Principles of Education

- 1 Education in Tasmania must nurture personal growth, wellbeing, fulfilment, innovation, creativity, skills and values that sustain democratic life and contribute to a productive, healthy and happy social democracy. Tasmania's future prosperity depends on a thriving education system producing a highly trained, skilled and creative workforce serving the needs of industry and the wider community.
- 2 Labor believes that quality education is the keystone of a civil, peaceful, supportive and democratic society. Quality education is an investment in the productive capacity of the nation.
- 3 Labor believes education is a defining part of an individual's growth and self-development. It is the way individuals gain knowledge and skills. The education journey begins at birth and continues for life.
- 4 Labor believes that affordable, accessible and quality education is a basic human right.
- 5 Labor will promote the value of education and a shared sense of responsibility for education among students, the profession, parents and the wider community.
- 6 Labor will develop a skilled and creative workforce that serves the needs of industry and the wider community.
- 7 Labor will comply with the Federal Government's Gonski Review of Educational Funding recommendations to build an education system which provides young people with a standard of education that allows both the state and the nation to have a competitive level of productive capacity.
- 8 Labor will ensure that school reporting is concise and transparent.
- 9 Labor will encourage community use of school facilities to develop social and learning networks.
- 10 Labor will strive for equity in access to learning opportunities available through Information and Communication Technologies (ICT).
- 11 Labor will invest in the National Broadband Network to enhance educational opportunities for all Tasmanians.
- 12 Labor will fund a robust and properly resourced public education system which is accessible to all Tasmanians.
- 13 Labor will ensure that public schools provide a benchmark for delivering quality education.
- 14 Labor will promote public school governing bodies and parent organisations enabling parents/guardians active involvement in education, the local school and their community.
- 15 Labor believes that education is a defining part of an individual's growth and self-development. It is the way individuals gain knowledge and skills. The education journey begins at birth and continues for life.

- 16 Promote respectful relationships through building the capacity for prevention education, ensuring all children participate in respectful relationships education and supporting effective parenting;

### Early Childhood Education and Care

- 17 Labor will provide integrated and affordable early childhood education that gives every child the best possible start to life.
- 18 Labor will support the goals, intent and implementation of the National Quality Framework for Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) to raise quality and drive continuous improvement and consistency ECEC services.
- 19 Labor will continue to locate early childhood services in each region, integrated with other community services, such as Pre-school and Community Centres. This will be done through the continued support and development of Child and Family Centres (CFCs) in conjunction with local communities.
- 20 Labor will encourage all employers to provide early childhood education and facilities, including the State Service, either individually or in co-operation with other employers.
- 21 Labor will investigate night care facilities needs for shift workers and other people.
- 22 Labor will provide home based and non-home based respite care for those in special need.
- 23 Labor will adequately fund early intervention services to ensure dedicated and effective education resources for young children with disabilities
- 24 Labor will ensure and encourage the development of a balanced and challenging curriculum
- 25 Labor will ensure that all Tasmanian students access effective, stimulating and attractive educational facilities and environments.
- 26 Labor will develop flexible education programs to meet the diverse needs of all students, particularly those living with special or additional needs.
- 27 Labor will ensure physical education and sport will be maintained as a fundamental activity in schools and within the community as a whole, paying special attention to the needs of children living with disabilities.
- 28 Labor will ensure that every child has the opportunity to develop sound literacy and numeracy skills and effectively use ICTs.
- 29 Labor will emphasise the social, non-competitive aspects of sport and physical activity through new sport, modified sports and non-traditional activities with a view to educating children in sound practices designed to ensure life-long maintenance of an optimum standard of health.
- 30 Labor will develop links between schools, school systems and all media (including social media) to ensure that achievements of students and new developments are equitably and effectively publicized.
- 31 Labor will pay particular attention to the Arts as mediums of creating self-awareness and fostering talents in art, music and drama.

- 32 Labor will facilitate the increase of Languages Other Than English (LOTE) education in Tasmanian schools to ready students for the globalized world.
- 33 Labor will ensure compulsory school curriculums include Industrial Relations, Civics, and Citizenship Education so that young people better understand the functionality of our democracy and are better empowered about their workplace and industrial rights.
- 34 Labor will mandate the introduction and teaching of a comprehensive sexual and personal health curriculum, which does so on an age appropriate and gender/sexuality neutral basis, and does not allow for abstinence-only sexual health education.

### **Post Compulsory Schooling and Vocational Education and Training**

- 35 Labor will provide clear pathways for academic, technical and work skill development.
- 36 Labor will support initiatives that enable Tasmanian workers to upgrade and extend their work skills through apprenticeships and training.
- 37 Labor will provide ongoing and affordable adult learning opportunities for all.
- 38 Labor will fund the provision of training for teachers, particularly teachers involved in careers education, to assist them to develop structures to encourage young people to:
  - be aware of the importance of optional subject choices to career options.
  - continue their education beyond post compulsory schooling.
  - consider careers in all fields regardless of gender.
- 39 Labor will provide incentives for government departments, statutory authorities and Local Government to take on more trainees under the Australian Vocational Certificate Training System.
- 40 Labor will seek to promote life-long learning through adult education, and new point and assess the needs of women with the purpose of removing barriers to their participation in Adult Education.

### **Affordable, accessible and quality education**

- 41 Labor believes that affordable, accessible and quality education is a basic human right.
- 42 Labor will ensure that all forms of education and training are accessible to all Tasmanians.
- 43 Labor will develop specific initiatives to improve access to and engagement in all forms of education and training for disadvantaged learners. This includes Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, those of Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) backgrounds, women, people with a disability, and people living in rural and remote areas.
- 44 Labor will seek to lift the learning outcomes of Aboriginal children.
- 45 Labor will provide equitable allocation of funds and facilities for disadvantaged learners.
- 46 Labor will not disadvantage Tasmanian children by ensuring the eligibility for the severe disability register is in line with other states, therefor the IQ cut off should be set at 75.
- 47 Labor will ensure that public schools help build mutual understanding between people of different ethnic, religious, vocational and socioeconomic backgrounds.

- 48 Labor will provide specialised support for all Tasmanian schools.
- 49 In conjunction with the Youth Advisory Council, Labor will facilitate the development of Community Youth Plans.
- 50 Labor will investigate mechanisms to facilitate access and equity of youth services for all young people.
- 51 Labor supports appropriate alternative education and training for “at risk” youth.
- 52 Labor will develop appropriately sensitive physical education and sporting program curricular to meet the cultural and physical requirements of all women to encourage participation.
- 53 Labor will encourage and assist the development of tertiary women’s study programs and research focusing on women’s needs and contributions.
- 54 Labor will encourage and assist tertiary institutions to implement policies to rectify the under representation of Aboriginal people and women in senior teaching and research positions.
- 55 Labor will fund vocational education and training courses for disadvantaged groups seeking to enter or reenter the paid workforce.
- 56 Labor will develop systems to better recognise the existing qualifications of migrants and refugees.
- 57 Tasmanian Labor recognises that education is a right, not a privilege and tertiary education is an investment in Tasmania
- 58 Tasmanian Labor calls on Federal Labor to properly resource tertiary education funding at the levels in previous budget forward estimates
- 59 Tasmanian Labor confirms its support for low socio economic status, rural and regional students and calls on the Federal Government to provide appropriate support for these students, endeavoring to reduce student debt.
- 60 Tasmanian Labor supports the continuation of student services amenities fee.

### **Quality Teachers and Educators**

- 61 Labor will ensure that teacher training in Tasmania draws on current educational theory and practice as well as the experience and expertise of the teaching profession.
- 62 Labor will deliver appropriate resourcing to provide for a highly qualified, productive and well remunerated teacher and educator workforce.

## CHAPTER 3: GOVERNANCE, FINANCE AND JUSTICE

### Government

1 Labor supports the introduction of a written Tasmanian Constitution which delineates:

- that the source of Government authority is the consent of the people;
- the responsibilities of the legislature, executive and judiciary;
- the relationship between those arms of Government;
- a suitable mechanism via which to work in partnership with the Tasmanian public to enable the amendment of the Constitution; and
- a democratic, republican government.

2 Labor believes that every Tasmanian has a stake in the political process.

Labor:

- recognises that the relevance of Government policy is reliant on adequate community consultation;
- will ensure that compulsory voting and registration continues in Tasmania, with automatic electoral enrolment on an individual's 18th birthday.<sup>i</sup>
- will investigate electoral reform of the Legislative Council. This will involve widespread consultation with the Tasmanian public, MLCs and other key stakeholders. Issues to be canvassed include the introduction of simultaneous elections. Labor will introduce any improvements found to have strong community support<sup>ii</sup>;
- supports the public funding of election campaigns<sup>iii</sup>;
- understands that the decisions and actions of the State Government must be relevant, transparent and accountable; and
- supports fixed term elections.

3 Labor believes that the Integrity Commission (which was established by Labor in 2009) is essential to promote ethical behaviour and awareness in government, including Parliament. To promote this aim, Labor:

- believes that Tasmanians have the right to expect Members of Parliament to behave with integrity;
- will develop appropriate mechanisms to deal with inappropriate behaviors within the PLP; and
- will provide for ongoing leadership and management training for members of the PLP and all State Service employees.

4 Labor believes in open government and will make every effort to eliminate "commercial-in-confidence" and similar clauses from government contracts and will only retain these where there is a compelling reason to do so. Government contracts will normally be published, where they can be readily scrutinised by the community.

### **ALP Governance**

- 5 Labor recognises there must be a clear link between Government processes and decisions made at State ALP Conference and, to ensure this occurs, the relevant Minister is to provide written feedback to the relevant Platform Committee within six months<sup>iv</sup> as to either:
- how each resolution passed at a State ALP Conference will be put into effect; or
  - why the resolution cannot be progressed at that time.

### **Tasmanian State Service**

- 6 Labor believes in having an impartial and dynamic State Service.
- 7 Labor will ensure that the Government is supported by a high quality State Service, as that will assist in improving transparency and accountability of Government processes.
- 8 Labor recognises good leadership is learned and must be based upon principles of integrity including:
- dedication to the provision of evidence-based, expert advice;
  - dedication to promoting a culture of professionalism and dynamism in the provision of services to Tasmanians;
  - a commitment to the principles in the State Service Act 2000;
  - an engaged and valued State Service;
  - commitment to accountability and performance review at both service and individual level.
- 9 Labor believes in accountability and performance review at whole of government, agency and individual level is necessary if the State Service is to be an effective instrument in delivering the Government's policies.
- 10 Labor recognises that engaged and empowered State Service employees are more productive and flexible.
- 11 Labor recognises that the independence and empowerment of the Auditor-General is required to provide comment with regard to the performance of State Service agencies. To improve this performance an efficiency and management audit of each State Service agency should take place each five years, commencing in 2014.
- 12 Labor will ensure that ongoing leadership and management training is provided for members of the State Service including agency secretaries, statutory office holders and all State Service employees.
- 13 Labor will ensure that "Good Ideas Systems" are employed across the State Service in order to both harness and value the imagination, goodwill and dedication of employees in this sector.
- 14 Labor does not support the forced redundancy of any employee and will amend the State Service Act 2000 to remove this provision<sup>v</sup>.
- 15 Labor will amend regulation 11 of the State Service Regulations 2011 making it consistent with the other Australian jurisdictions by removing unreasonable restrictions on state public sector workers right to make public statements<sup>vi</sup>.

## Economy

- 16 Labor believes that, as a social democratic party, there should be appropriate government regulation of the economy including, but not limited to, appropriate State government budgetary measures, which will ensure the stability of the economy.
- 17 Labor believes that:
- Tasmania has the human and physical resources to build a vibrant regional economy providing high levels of economic prosperity and social wellbeing;
  - trade unions, industry, the public sector, government, including Local Government and the Tasmanian community all play significant roles in the development of Tasmania;
  - a vibrant economy should exhibit a balance of positive economic, environmental and social outcomes; and
  - increasing productivity is the best guarantor of balanced prosperity leading to high employment, good quality jobs and a lively community.
- 18 Labor recognises that existing industries need to be encouraged and supported to innovate, and that new industries need to be developed. To this end, Labor will implement its Economic Development Plan, as it provides a comprehensive, whole-of-government framework that will guide Tasmania's economic development.<sup>vii</sup>
- 19 Labor will create a more competitive business environment by:
- measuring and addressing costs that impact on competition;
  - promoting business enterprise development and innovation;
  - capitalising on Tasmania's natural environment and overall branding;
  - eliminating unnecessary regulation and making regulatory compliance more efficient;
  - building training systems which provide skilled workers with the capacity to gain well paid employment with increased job satisfaction;<sup>viii</sup>
  - promoting the capacity to engage in fair business practices;<sup>ix</sup>
  - promoting employment practices which enhance the recruitment and retention of a productive workforce; and
  - promoting a culture of accountability whereby the evaluation of major infrastructure projects is encouraged.
- 20 Labor will maximise the direct and indirect opportunities arising from infrastructure projects and avoid decisions which privatise public instrumentalities without there being a sound, long term benefit to the broad Tasmanian economy, including economic, employment, tourism, social and environmental considerations.<sup>x</sup>
- 21 Labor will especially oppose the privatisation of Tasmania's power network, or any part thereof and, in particular, it is opposed to the sale of the Hydro Tasmania and Transend Networks Pty Ltd.
- 22 Labor supports all Australian industries and, subject to any international trade obligations, supports the purchase of Australian-made goods and services.<sup>xi</sup>
- 23 Labor will make representations to the Commonwealth Government with a view to having Commonwealth Government benefits indexed to Average Weekly Ordinary Time Earnings.<sup>xii</sup>

### ***Financial Strategy and Taxation Policy***

- 24 Labor believes that a sound financial strategy promotes industry development, employment opportunities and the achievement of an economy which can support positive outcomes relating to social justice.
- 25 Labor believes sound financial management is built upon the following principles:
- raising adequate income to meet recurrent expenditure;
  - strong discipline to ensure that unsustainable deficits do not occur; and
  - borrowing funds for appropriate capital expenditure for the long term benefit of the Tasmanian community (for example, hospitals, roads and ports);
  - achieve savings in service delivery costs, in a way which does not significantly impact on such services.<sup>xiii</sup>
- 26 Labor recognises that an excessive accumulation of government debt causes a decline in government services and an inability to stimulate economic growth.
- 27 Labor will enable improved government services through the provision of improved whole-of-Government strategies such as well-designed accounting systems, information management systems and communication technologies able to be used across all Government agencies.
- 28 Labor will encourage sustainable, appropriate investment in Tasmania which aligns with the branding of Tasmania in vital industries such as tourism and the food industry.
- 29 Labor will continuously monitor Tasmania's taxation system and make changes where opportunities arise to improve efficiency and fairness.<sup>xiv</sup>
- 30 Labor will review the concessions available to pensioners on water bills with a long-term aim of increasing this concession to fifty per cent of the total cost.<sup>xv</sup>
- Labor will amend the Economic Regulator Act 2009 to require the Regulator to consider users' capacity to pay in setting price determinations.<sup>xvi</sup>
- 31 Labor will also amend that Act to introduce electricity price regulation for Pay As You Go (PAYG) customers.<sup>xvii</sup>
- 32 Labor will consider the reintroduction of the Tasmanian Trainee and Apprentice Scheme (TTAIS) in respect of employers that employ apprentices and trainees undertaking training at a Certificate 3 level, or above, and who have a contract of training of two years or more.<sup>xviii</sup>

### ***Innovation Strategy***

#### ***Guiding principles***

- 33 Labor believes innovation in existing and new industries is the key to economic prosperity, high employment and quality jobs.
- 34 Labor recognises Tasmanian industries and workers have a proud record of innovation and Government support for innovation in Australia has been historically weak. Continued innovation is only possible with support from all levels of government.

### *Specific policies*

35 Labor will develop an innovation strategy.

## **Industrial Relations**

### *Guiding principles*

36 An effective and balanced industrial relations system is central to:

- the wellbeing of the people of Tasmania;
- the maintenance of a just society; and
- the achievement of a vibrant economy.

37 The inherent imbalance between employees and employers necessitates the existence of a sound industrial relations system to encourage good management principles to be implemented by employers and to protect the security of employees', wages, working conditions and entitlements.

38 Employees must be treated equally in relation to wages and working conditions irrespective of gender, age, ethnicity, sexual orientation or disability or the sector in which their employer operates.

39 The definition of an employee in any legislation should prevent the exploitation of employees by designating them as sub-contractors or through other means that circumvent the traditional employer/employee relationship and the rights of the employee.

40 Workers compensation laws must safeguard the rights of employees who sustain health or financial disadvantage as a result of a work-place injury.

41 The rights of child workers must be secured through the implementation of laws that protect and improve the conditions of such employees.

42 The current system of penalty rates, which compensate employees for forgoing evenings, weekends and public holidays, must be maintained.<sup>xix</sup>

43 Every employee has the right to secure work with employment subject to a reasonable degree of certainty.<sup>xx</sup>

44 Employees must be able to take a collective approach in negotiating their working conditions in order to achieve fair outcomes.

45 The right of employees to withdraw their labour is a fundamental principle.

46 The State system must align with the Federal system where possible (and relevant) to achieve consistency across jurisdictions.

Employees in the private sector should enjoy the same conditions of employment as those in the public sector.

47 Negotiations should be based on co-operation and consultation between employees, unions, and employers; and underpinned by a legislative framework that protects the rights of all parties and meets Australia's obligations under the International Labour Organisation (ILO) convention.

- 48 Work practices should ensure that employees are able to meet their responsibilities regarding home, family and community life.
- 49 A strong and independent industrial commission and a strong and vibrant union movement are vital to the fair and proper functioning of the industrial relations system.

### *Specific policies*

50 Labor will:

- commit to adequate funding to remove differences in wages and conditions that result from gender inequity, and to ensure that this funding is sufficient for this to occur with no loss of service. <sup>xxi</sup>
- support the 2012 decision of Fair Work Australia to correct gender based inequity in the Community Sector.
- establish a Youth Workers Commissioner with the role of developing and implementing programs to educate young people about their workplace rights and responsibilities and to consult on legislative change which is aimed at the promotion of the interests of young workers. <sup>xxii</sup>
- support the retention of penalty rates at their current levels. <sup>xxiii</sup>
- introduce child employment laws that ensure the rights of child workers are protected and quantify minimum standards for such workers. <sup>xxiv</sup>
- introduce legislation to bring private sector long service entitlements in line with those applying to public sector employees. <sup>xxv</sup>
- implement a portable long service leave scheme similar to TasBuild. This will be achieved through the establishment and appropriate resourcing of an Advisory Committee consisting of appropriate stakeholders to make recommendations to government aimed at achieving this outcome. <sup>xxvi</sup>
- Labor will implement an advisory committee consisting of government, union and employer representatives with the purpose of developing recommendations relating to the implementation of a portable long service leave scheme for workers in Health and Community Services industries. <sup>xxvii</sup>
- amend the Workers Compensation and Rehabilitation Act 1988 to widen the definition of “worker” to prevent the exploitation of employees through arrangements such as sub-contracting which are designed to undermine employee conditions. <sup>xxviii</sup>
- replace the 20% whole-of-person impairment threshold for accessing common law entitlements with a more effective and fairer model that better takes into account the injury and its effect on the injured employee. <sup>xxix</sup>
- ensure that all legislation relating to Workers Compensation is amended to ensure no worker is financially disadvantaged through sustaining a work-place injury. <sup>xxx</sup>
- adopt in full the recommendations as outlined in the Tasmanian Law Reform Institute – Criminal Liability of Organisations, Final Report No. 9, April 2007, in relation to Industrial Manslaughter. <sup>xxxi</sup>
- continue its commitment to Clean Start and fast track the retendering of all contracts that have remained untested since the Treasurer’s Instruction 1126. <sup>xxxii</sup>

- continue to guarantee job security and undertake no contracting out and provide safe and fair workloads for directly employed school attendants. <sup>xxxiii</sup>
  - initiate a regulation and licensing system to govern Labor Hire companies and other entities that sell labour to other companies to protect workers and ensure these mechanisms are not designed to circumvent wages, conditions and access to Workers Compensation. <sup>xxxiv</sup>
  - investigate the use of Host Responsibility Officers, whose task would be to identify and intervene when patrons are suspect of having a gambling problem. <sup>xxxv</sup>
  - investigate, and if required, regulate labour hire companies. <sup>xxxvi</sup>
- 51 Labor will refer to the Australian Government the balance of private sector industrial relations in Tasmania to provide certainty for employers and access to modern awards by employees.
- 52 Maintain the Tasmanian Industrial Commission as an independent statutory body covering public sector employment.
- 53 Ensure that registered Industrial agreements are adhered to and apply sufficient resources to achieve adherence within both the Tasmanian and Federal systems.
- 54 Ensure the provision of online access to awards and formal decisions of both the Tasmanian Industrial Commission in regard to State Service matters and Fair Work Australia in regard to the private sector.
- 55 Review issues and develop protocols on workplace privacy e.g. email and workplace surveillance, and drug and other testing.
- 56 Ensure that the right of unions to enter workplaces to recruit and communicate with members and facilitate collective organisation is protected by appropriate legislation.
- 57 Encourage education and training about, and for, unions.
- 58 Pursue changes to provide for the resolution of industrial disputes by conciliation and, if necessary, by arbitration in a prompt and fair manner with a minimum of legal technicality.
- 59 Provide that the Tasmanian Industrial Relations Commission has the power to declare void any unfair, harsh or unconscionable employment and ensure that all employee entitlements are maintained in the event of transmission of business.
- 60 Pursue legislative changes to provide for interest at the same rate as applies to Supreme Court judgments to be awarded to employees in the event of underpayment of wages or other benefits.
- 61 Ensure that unions pursuing their legitimate industrial and social interests are not subject to civil actions for breach of contract, conspiracy, intimidation or unlawful interference.
- 62 Require employers who provide services to government to observe good industrial relations practices.

## Employment

### *Guiding Principles*

- 63 Labor recognises the importance of the apprenticeship system and other forms of workplace training.
- 64 Labor will prepare a discussion paper for the 2014 State Conference on the need for incentives to be developed and adopted by the Tasmanian Government in order to attract and retain workers within Tasmania.<sup>xxxvii</sup>
- 65 Labor will encourage long term, permanent employment and discourage the casualization of the workforce.
- 66 Labor will encourage and implement industrial democracy and genuine worker participation schemes.
- 67 Labor will encourage Government agencies to provide entry points for the employment of young people and disadvantaged or displaced persons.
- 68 Labor believes that compulsory redundancy must be a matter of last resort. Whenever possible, terminations of employment through redundancy should be carried out on a voluntary basis.
- 69 Labor believes workers' entitlements should be protected in cases where there is a transmission of business or in cases of company insolvency or restructuring.
- 70 Labor recognises that all workers have the right to challenge harsh and unjust dismissal through either the Tasmanian Industrial Commission or the Australian Industrial Relations Commission. The test of fairness in worker-related dismissals should include an examination of the procedure followed by the employer and also an examination of the validity of the reason for dismissal.
- 71 Labor will pursue changes to allow costs to be awarded against employers in unfair termination proceedings where it is found there is no valid reason for termination.
- 72 Labor will ensure that termination of employment must be for a valid reason as provided for in the terms of the relevant International Labour Organisation convention.

### *Occupational health and safety*

- 73 Labor recognises the impact workplace injuries have on individual workers and their families. Labor believes that workplaces must be safe and every worker has the absolute right to go to work and return home uninjured.
- 74 Labor will amend workers' compensation legislation to ensure that no injured workers will be disadvantaged financially, nor lose conditions of employment as a result of a workplace injury<sup>xxxviii</sup>.
- 75 Labor recognises the benefit of early treatment of injured workers for the best recovery outcomes.
- 76 Labor believes that the Workers Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988 should have a very strong focus on rehabilitation and return to work.

- 77 Labor recognises that the best outcomes for workers will be achieved through a collaborative approach between the injured worker, their employer, insurance provider and allied and other health professionals required to promote recovery and return to work.
- 78 Labor recognises that an injury to a worker causes an economic loss to society, being the cost of the medical treatment to the worker and the loss of productivity because the worker is incapacitated.
- 79 Labor will ensure that workers who are injured as a result of the negligence of the employer have the right of access to common law.
- 80 Labor will amend the Workers Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988 by providing that the employer and insurer must prove that a partially incapacitated worker can obtain employment and the amount the worker can earn in any employment before the weekly payments of that worker can be reviewed.
- 81 Labor will amend the Work Health and Safety Regulations 2012 to confer upon union officials the right to enter premises where there are employed persons eligible to join their union, during working hours, to check on Occupational Health and Safety conditions.
- 82 Labor will amend section 81A of the Workers Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988 to add another section (2) (c) that allows the employee to provide evidentiary material to the tribunal, which they intend to rely on the at the hearing of the matter to support their claim and allow workers who have had their weekly payments cut to be allowed to access provisional weekly payment where a dispute has arisen and where weekly payment have been withdrawn, until their case has been heard.<sup>xxxix</sup>
- 83 Labor is deeply concerned about the level of asbestos contamination in our Tasmanian homes, environment, community and workplaces Asbestos is a class one carcinogen with no known safe level of exposure. Labor will make every effort to:
- ensure better compliance with asbestos regulations in our workplaces;
  - amend asbestos regulations to create a central registry for workplace asbestos registers and asbestos management plans;
  - introduce vendor disclosure of asbestos upon the sale of a property;
  - introduce landlord disclosure of asbestos upon leasing a property;
  - collate and distribute full medical statistics on asbestos diseases;
  - continue to support the Australian Workers Union and Cement Australia project at Railton;
  - continue to provide education to the broader community about asbestos, its risks and how to dispose of it;
  - provide safe, accessible, affordable, asbestos disposal mechanisms;
  - adopt a policy of “prioritised removal” of asbestos so that, over time the amount of asbestos on our island can be minimised;
  - develop measures to assist low income earners have dangerous asbestos professionally removed from their homes;

- investigate establishment of a community fund to assist householders and community groups remove asbestos;
- support a policy of “letters of exposure” to be given to Tasmanians who have been exposed to asbestos in their work or as bystanders in a workplace.
- develop incentives for small to medium sized workplaces that may otherwise not be able to afford it, to safely remove asbestos; and
- continue to support the advocacy and asbestos awareness programs run by the Asbestos Free Tasmania Foundation.<sup>xi</sup>

84 Labor believes that the common law ‘principal of finality’ is inappropriate in asbestos compensation cases due to the nature of the development of asbestos related diseases. Labor will remedy the situation by:

- Legislating to exempt dust diseases from the Limitations Act 1974, again putting Tasmania on par with most other jurisdictions.
- Legislating to enable asbestos disease sufferers to make a claim on a provisional basis, putting Tasmania on par with other Australian jurisdictions.
- Ensuring that a claimant can apply to the court for an expedited trial and that recorded video evidence is admissible if the claimant dies before a decision on damages is made.<sup>xii</sup>

#### **Law and justice**

85 Labor recognises that it is imperative that action be taken to preserve human rights; that everyone has duties to the community and the exercise of a person’s rights and freedoms shall be subject only to such limitations for the purpose of securing recognition and respect for the rights and freedom of others.

86 Labor believes in human rights as set out in the Tasmanian Law Reform Institute’s Final Report No. 10 (October 2007) including:<sup>xlii</sup>

- the right to recognition as a person before the law including ensuring all persons have effective access to justice on an equal basis with others;
- the right to be equal before the law and to equal protection of the law without discrimination and the right to equal and effective protection against discrimination;
- freedom from discrimination;
- the right to liberty and security of the person;
- the right to humane treatment when detained;
- the right not to be imprisoned for a contractual debt;
- the protection of other rights and freedoms while in lawful detention;
- the right to a fair hearing;
- the right not to be tried or punished more than once for the same criminal offence;
- the right to compensation for wrongful conviction
- the right not to be tried or punished for conduct that was not a criminal offence when it was engaged in (freedom from retrospective criminal punishment);
- rights in criminal proceedings;

- the right to life;
- the right to protection of the family and children;
- the right of children to be protected from economic and social exploitation;
- the right of children to special treatment in the criminal justice process;
- the right to self-determination;
- the right to privacy and reputation;
- freedom of movement;
- freedom of conscience, thought, religion and belief;
- freedom of expression;
- freedom of association and peaceful assembly and the right to form and join trade unions;
- the right to vote and participate in public life;
- the right not to be deprived of property except on fair and just terms;
- the right of ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities to enjoy their own culture;
- the right of Indigenous Tasmanians to maintain their distinctive identity, culture, and to use and maintain their language;
- the right not to be subjected to torture, or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment;
- freedom from slavery and forced work; and
- Freedom from genocide.

Labor will introduce into the House of Assembly, and support the passage of, a legislated Charter of Human Rights.

- 87 Labor believes in early intervention with children, young people and their families where there has been or there is the potential for involvement in the criminal justice system.
- 88 Labor believes the practice of our criminal system should reflect the presumption of innocence; and provide that a person who has been arrested has the right to apply to a judicial officer for bail.
- 89 Labor believes access to justice can only be realised if legal services are:
- readily available to all Tasmanians; and
  - affordable, simple, fair and encourage speedy dispute resolution by conciliation (where possible).
- 90 Labor believes that an accused's right to silence is integral to the criminal justice process. Labor believes integrity in the gathering of evidence, including confessions, is critical to the delivery of justice.
- 91 Labor believes restorative justice builds a sense of community spirit and responsibility in the offender and aims to restore the victim and the community to their pre-offence state of security.
- 92 Labor believes Magistrates and the Judiciary are in the best position to set penalties and penal sentences and opposes minimum penalties.

- 93 Labor believes in a transparent process for appointing judicial officers.
- 94 Labor believes where there are issues relating to substance abuse, the Court will consider Court-mandated drug diversion.<sup>xliii</sup>
- 95 Labor believes where there are issues relating to mental health of offenders, that mental health treatment be provided during incarceration; and where a lack of literacy is an issue for offenders, provide literacy programs during incarceration.<sup>xliv</sup>
- 96 Labor believes victims are entitled to dignity and respect;
- furthermore, Labor believes victims of crimes are entitled to compensation for physical and psychological injuries suffered as a result of such crimes; and
  - that protecting the anonymity of victims of sexual offences is vital to ensuring victims' right to privacy and encouraging victims to report the incidence of sexual offences.
- 97 Labor believes that identifying offenders' criminogenic needs and providing programs to address these needs, both during and upon release from incarceration will result in a reduction of recidivism.
- that the main criminogenic needs associated with offending and reoffending are employment, accommodation, drugs and alcohol, mental health, education and social networks; and
  - that court-mandated drug and mental health diversion programs are an invaluable addition to the criminal justice system.
- 98 Labor believes:
- where there are issues relating to substance abuse the Court should consider Court-mandated drug diversion.
  - in relation to mental health and/or a lack of literacy, the prison system should ensure mental health treatment; and provide literacy programs during the incarceration.<sup>xliv</sup>
- 99 Labor believes alcohol and/or substance-fuelled driving offences must be addressed in a manner which results in a change in community acceptance of such offences.
- 100 Labor believes alcohol-fuelled violent behaviour, particularly in and around licensed premises must be addressed by policies which curtail the promotion of alcohol and results in a change in community acceptance of such offences.
- 101 Labor recognises the full range of sentencing options need to be implemented to reduce reliance on the use of imprisonment as a sentencing option and that both rehabilitation and community protection need to be primary consideration in sentencing.
- 102 Labor recognises a primary aim of any laws or rules relating to debt recovery should be the reduction of the rate of default and the rehabilitation of the debtor.
- 103 Labor recognises there is no simple causal connection between the severity of punishment and the incidence of criminal activity. Preventing crime involves a whole of Government approach which provides effective education and training, alcohol abuse and problem gambling prevention, health and wellbeing services including mental health support services, early support for young families, as well as dealing with the root causes of poverty, alienation and inequality in any society.

- 104 Labor will continue to support the Anti-discrimination Tribunal.
- Labor will also review the Anti-discrimination Act 1998 and implement changes to ensure that bullying in the workplace is prohibited.
- 105 Labor will continue to strengthen and support legislation to adequately protect whistle blowers.
- 106 Labor will introduce journalist shield laws which provide journalists with the rights to keep sources confidential. The rights conferred will be at least as strong as those provided by the Commonwealth's Evidence Amendment (Journalists Privilege) Act 2011 for federal jurisdictions.
- 107 Labor recognises the need to ensure that criminal laws are relevant to contemporary community standards of behaviour, including the following:
- developing and implementing a drug harm minimisation strategy for Tasmania;
  - ensuring those who are dependent on drugs, and their families, have access to appropriate rehabilitation treatment, education and counseling programs; and
  - ensuring that prisoners who are dependent on drugs have access to rehabilitation treatment, education and counseling programs.
- 108 Labor will promote the safety of Tasmanians by:
- conducting research into innovative solutions to dealing with intergenerational antisocial behavior;
  - ensuring the use of appropriate video technology such as the video-conferencing network in courts to the benefit of those applicants of restraint orders in the more remote areas of Tasmania; and video surveillance during the transport of prisoners and young people requiring detention at Ashley Youth Detention Centre;
  - implementing and evaluating a whole of government strategy to deal with family violence, including a review of the Family Violence Act 2004 to ensure that it is effective in protecting families, young people and children;
  - ensuring the public faith is maintained in the police force by maintaining an effective system to investigate and resolve complaints against the police; and
  - complying with the decision by the Council of Australian Governments that each jurisdiction will have adequate screening of people working with children in either a paid or voluntary capacity.
- 109 Labor will ensure that Legal Aid is available to Tasmanians including Legal Aid for civil cases as far as financially practicable. Until there has been an adequate provision of Legal Aid, Labor will encourage pro-bono fee arrangements. Labor will also ensure transparency, accountability and fair dealings between members of the legal profession and their clients.
- 110 Labor will develop a system of reforms to:
- review sentencing options;
  - examine ways to reduce reliance on the use of imprisonment;
  - improve methods of detecting and re-listing matters regarding breaches of suspended sentences and court orders;

- implement a strategy to educate and enable community members and victims of crime to participate in the development of sentencing policy;
- provide appropriate treatment, counseling and compensation to victims of crime who suffer personal injury including psychological injury;
- protect the anonymity of victims of sexual crimes, as recommended by the Tasmanian Law Reform Institute;
- improve rehabilitation and reduce recidivism;
- initiate programs to divert persons convicted of offences and limit the reliance upon the prison system and focus on the offender's rehabilitation and restoration to the Tasmanian community; and
- provide that prisoners be given the right to vote where they have been sentenced to five years or less or have less than five years of their sentence remaining to be served.

- 111 Labor will assess the potential of government to play a greater role in encouraging and assisting debtors to take responsibility for the management of their own financial affairs.
- 112 Labor will take all reasonable steps to ensure that everybody feels safe and secure both in their home and in public places in Tasmania.
- 113 Labor will encourage a feeling of security including restraining sensational or dishonest reporting of crime.
- 114 Labor recognises that all Tasmanians have a right to privacy against inappropriate media intrusion.
- 115 Labor will ensure that information-sharing and privacy legislation adequately protects the privacy of Tasmanians.
- 116 Labor believes in a gender-neutral Marriage Act at Federal and/or state level. Labor will pursue marriage equality at state level including the recognition of same sex marriages conducted in other Australian and international jurisdictions.<sup>xlvi</sup>
- 117 Labor will review the regulation of the sex industry in Tasmania to ensure a safe, secure and properly regulated industry. Labor believes the State Government must present new sex industry legislation in this term of parliament, with paramount consideration given to the occupational health and safety of the workers in the industry and regulations to better protect the sexual health of the Tasmanian population must be a prime concern of the legislation and that moral objections to prostitution should not be considered in the formation of new regulations, which must be focused on practical concerns that deliver better outcomes in health, wellbeing and safety.<sup>xlvii</sup>
- 118 Labor supports "Dying with Dignity" legislation including an amendment to section 163 of the Tasmanian Criminal Code 1924, allowing terminally ill people to voluntarily choose to die with dignity, subject to the appropriate safeguards.<sup>xlviii</sup>
- 119 Labor believes adoption is an effective way of providing legal recognition for same-sex families and supports legislation to allow same-sex couples to be eligible to adopt children.<sup>xliv</sup>
- 120 Labor believes Tasmanian women should not be at risk of criminal prosecution in the event they undergo a medical procedure to terminate a pregnancy.

Labor will vigorously pursue law reform to remove abortion from the criminal code. <sup>i</sup>

- 121 Labor recognises the failure of the ‘war on drugs’ and the need for State and Commonwealth governments to work together towards a better response to the use of illicit drugs. Labor recognises that:
- the Global Commission on Drugs Policy and the Australia 21 Roundtable have both called for a re-opening of the debate around the use of illicit drugs and the laws that police them.
  - the use of illicit drugs as a major public health issue which causes harm to individuals and communities.
  - drug use and drug addiction are health issues, not legal issues, and need to be treated as such.
- 122 Labor believes that people who engage in the trafficking, manufacture and sale of trafficable quantities of illicit drugs should face the full consequence of the law.
- 123 Labor supports the recommendations of the Australia 21 Roundtable Report released in April 2012 including re-opening national debate on prohibition and establishing an Expert Advisory Group to conduct stakeholder consultation and focus groups.
- 124 Labor will establish parliamentary inquiries to investigate the reform of laws relating to illicit drugs as a matter of urgency and adopt an illicit drugs policy which:
- shows a firm commitment to harm minimisation practice, and commits to strengthening and expanding existing harm minimisation measures;
  - retains criminal sanctions and strong penalties for the trafficking, manufacture and sale of trafficable quantities of illicit drugs; and
  - re-opens the debate on prohibition of the possession and use of small quantities of illicit drugs.<sup>ii</sup>
- 125 Labor supports the recommendations the Tasmanian Law Reform Institute regarding Non-Therapeutic Male Circumcision. Labor will pursue the recommendations including:
- enactment of a general prohibition on the circumcision of incapable minors with an exception for well-established religious or ethnicity motivated circumcisions;
  - enactment of legislation clarifying the legality of circumcisions performed at the request of an adult or a capable minor and governing situations where parents disagree about the desirability of performing a circumcision;
  - greater dissemination of accurate information on the known and potential effects and significance of circumcision;
  - the imposition of criminal sanctions for a circumciser who fails to meet minimum standards of care; and
  - enactment of legislation providing a uniform limitations period in which individuals can bring an action against their circumciser and extending the limitations period for individuals harmed by circumcisions as a minor.

### **Local Government**

- 126 Labor will continue to work with Local Government through a cooperative and consultative approach to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the sector and to ensure local councils are responsive, accountable and delivering the services those communities need at the lowest possible cost.
- 127 Labor will promote democracy within Local Government by ensuring greater community participation in local council elections through introduction of compulsory voting, to ensure that councils represent the entire community, including younger people.
- 128 Labor will introduce all in, all out elections every four years (including for Mayors and deputy Mayors) from 2014 to ensure that councils can focus on what they were elected to do, and can be held accountable as a whole for what they have or have not delivered.
- 129 Labor will support voluntary amalgamations, if initiated by local councils, through the provision of expert advice where appropriate and the provision of data to help assess the case for amalgamation.
- 130 Labor will continue to develop and implement Partnership Agreements between the State Government and local councils, to cover such roles as community services provision, environmental responsibilities, the promotion of joint ventures, coordination of effort and information sharing, financial management and service delivery.

### **Family justice**

- 131 Labor will ensure that children have access to justice, in particular, access to legal advice and legal representation.
- 132 Labor will:
  - ensure accessible and equitable justice for women and their children;
  - maintain a criminal justice system in which perpetrators are held accountable for their behavior;
  - ensure judicial officers, law enforcement personnel and other professionals within the legal system have appropriate knowledge and expertise;
  - design, implement and evaluate perpetrator treatment programs for early intervention where violence is emerging in a relationship, as well as for high risk offenders;
  - ensure that services meet the needs of women and their children, through strengthening services and workforce capacity and increasing access to safe accommodation;
  - provide counseling and support services to children affected by family violence (recognising the significant impact family violence has on children);
  - promote respectful relationships through building the capacity for prevention education, ensuring all children participate in respectful relationships education and supporting effective parenting;
  - provide leadership in building safe communities to ensure change is achieved and sustained, by focusing on prevention, strengthening community leadership awareness and understanding, promoting positive male behaviors and enhancing women's economic independence; and

- provide state-wide sexual assault support services for women.

### **Public housing principles**

- 133 Labor believes the role of government includes a responsibility for ensuring that housing remains affordable for all citizens.
- 134 Labor recognises the cost of housing is becoming prohibitive and that the cost of land is a significant and increasing component of housing costs.
- 135 Labor will continue to provide access to social and/or public housing.
- 136 Labor will consider establishing 'Public and Social Housing Principles' in relation to public housing.
- 137 Labor will abide by benchmarks as agreed with the Commonwealth Government in National Partnership Agreements in relation to housing affordability.
- 138 Labor will construct public and/or social housing as part of a well-researched development plan for regional areas.
- 139 Labor will review and adjust as necessary, the income limits imposed on people when determining eligibility for home loans through state government home ownership programs.
- 140 Labor will review the administrative charges on home loans taken out by purchasers of Departmental public housing in order to evaluate the purpose and formulae used in determining the cost of this administrative charge.
- 141 Labor will ensure the repayments of low income home loans targeted to families/single people are affordable.
- 142 Labor will establish a special home finance scheme that:
- gives priority finance in property settlements for the family home to the custodial parent where that person is the applicant; and
  - ensures that custodial parents dispossessed of their family home through property settlements can apply for low-cost housing loans to purchase a future home.
- 143 Labor will continue to provide a range of schemes where low to moderate income earners with limited resources are able to purchase homes with assistance from the relevant government agency (currently the Department of Health and Human Services).
- 144 Labor will investigate the feasibility of a rental purchase scheme where people wishing to buy their own home are eligible for assistance under a rental purchase contract.
- 145 Labor will investigate an owner builder scheme where people, with or without land, who meet income requirements may be eligible to be financed to build their own home.
- 146 Labor will investigate a sweat equity loans plan whereby people without a deposit but who are willing to put work into bringing a house up to standard, may be eligible for a home loan where their hard work is their equity, including:
- homes in need of renovation being purchased by the Department, (replacing flooring, roofing, weatherboards, general renovation works etc.); and

- the cost of the home, plus holding fees, loans for materials and legal fees etc. being the amount of the loan to the purchaser.
- 147 Labor will enact legislation to identify and utilise vacant State, Commonwealth houses and or land for the purpose of public housing and/or joint ventures with the private sector.
- 148 Labor will adopt Commonwealth standards in relation to the rental of housing properties.
- 149 Labor will review Residential Tenancy Act 1997 for its effectiveness in enabling consultation with relevant interest groups. The primary objectives of this legislation review are to examine:
- certainty to both property owners and tenants in relation to tenancy agreements;
  - appropriate dispute resolution between property owners and tenants which is easily accessible and understood;
  - the setting of minimum obligations and rights for both tenant and landlord;
  - the need for anti-discrimination measures in tenancy arrangements; and
  - acceptable processes for the setting of rent levels, maintenance, access and termination of the tenancy.
- 150 Labor will develop a mandatory code of best practice for boarding houses and other crisis accommodation support centres.
- 151 Labor will monitor recent legislation for boarding houses, and develop standards for their control.

#### ***Consumer protection and credit laws***

- 152 Labor will give high priority to consumer education programs.
- 153 Labor supports a national approach to consumer protection that is encapsulated in the Commonwealth's Competition and Consumer Act 2010, including the Australian Consumer Law Schedule.
- 154 Labor will strengthen the protection of consumers by ensuring consumer protection legislation is vigorously administered by providing adequate staffing and resources.
- 155 Labor supports a national approach to credit laws and therefore supports the National Consumer Credit Protection Act 2009.
- 156 Labor supports the Motor Vehicles Traders Act 2011 and the Motor Vehicles Traders Regulations 2012 for the protection of consumers in the purchase of motor vehicles.

#### ***Home building***

- 157 Labor supports the building regulations administered by the Director of Building Control that require builders to be licensed and competent.

Accordingly, Labor will enact legislation which:

- protects new homes, additions or renovations; and
- provides a consumer warranty to protect consumers against faulty materials, bad building practices or where a builder is unable to complete a job or goes into liquidation.

## CHAPTER 4: NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY

### Natural Resources

#### *Principles for managing our natural resources*

- 1 Labor believes that Tasmania's abundant renewable resources are one of its natural advantages and will therefore always be an important part of the State's economy.
- 2 Labor recognises that Tasmania's resource industries are fundamental to Tasmania's ongoing economic prosperity and jobs.
- 3 Labor believes that it is both necessary and possible for resource industries to complement or coexist with tourism and with the preservation of Tasmania's high conservation environmental values.
- 4 Labor believes that ensuring the continuation and success of Tasmania's resource industries relies on a balance between access to and sustainability of resources.
- 5 Labor believes that for every resource extracted in Tasmania, the maximum value possible from that resource should be sought.
- 6 Labor recognises that major infrastructure and downstream processing projects have an important role in adding value in the processing of natural resources.
- 7 Labor will continue to support projects that add value to Tasmania's natural resources provided they meet stringent environmental, social and economic guidelines for approval.
- 8 Labor will maximise the benefit to Tasmanians of Tasmania's resource industries by:
  - developing skills and training of the local workforce to meet the needs of resource industries; and
  - encouraging local financial interests to invest in resource industries.

#### *Mining*

- 9 Labor recognises that Tasmania is rich in mineral resources.
- 10 Labor will promote the balanced development of mineral resources taking into account economic, environmental and social issues.
- 11 Labor welcomes and supports the decision of the Australian Government to support a heritage listing within the Tarkine that does not restrict current or future mining or mineral exploration activities.
- 12 Labor will encourage mining companies to support social and economic development in the communities around mine sites.
- 13 Labor will promote geological and geoscientific research to identify new opportunities for the extraction of subterranean resources.
- 14 Labor will work with industry to ensure the protection of the safety, health and welfare of workers in the mining industry as well as the populations living in proximity to their operations.

- 15 Labor will conduct research that will contribute to best practice in safety for workers in the mining industry by improving the prediction and mitigation of geophysical hazards.
- 16 Labor will work with the mining industry to facilitate recreational fossicking.
- 17 Labor will minimise the impact of mine sites on the surrounding environment.
- 18 Labor will ensure rehabilitation of mine sites so that they are returned as close as possible to their previous state.
- 19 Labor will work with the Australian Government to support the mining industry in adapting to meeting the challenges faced in dealing with the issue of climate change.

### **Forestry**

- 20 Labor believes that Tasmania's forest industry has a vibrant ongoing future as a result of the Tasmanian Forest Agreement and the security of market access and guaranteed wood supply that it will deliver.
- 21 Labor believes that Tasmania's forest practices are world leading.
- 22 Labor believes that the future of Tasmania's forest industry rests in market access through adapting to changing market preferences, resource security, continuous improvement in sustainable practices, and innovative value-adding.
- 23 Labor supports the Tasmanian Forestry Agreement as the best way forward for the long term economic and environmental sustainability of the forest industry.
- 24 As part of the Tasmanian Forestry Agreement, Labor will put in place processes to ensure the durability of the agreement.
- 25 Labor will structurally separate Forestry Tasmania in a way that ensures its long term future and allows it to focus on its commercial activities of servicing its customers and growing and managing Tasmania's wood production forests.
- 26 Labor will develop a comprehensive forest plantation strategy.
- 27 Labor recognises the economic and cultural value of Tasmania's special species timber and will ensure an ongoing supply of that timber to the woodcraft industry.
- 28 Labor will facilitate new, regionally-based investment projects that add value to our forests and forest products, including research and development into alternative uses for forest residue.
- 29 Labor remains committed to the development of a pulp mill to create jobs and further add value to our timber residues.
- 30 Labor will ensure that the sustainable management of our Permanent Production Zone forest maximizes the social and economic benefits to the Tasmanian community, including the provision of craft material, water, horticultural products, and access for beekeeping and recreation.
- 31 Labor will ensure that our forests are a safe workplace providing skills, personal development opportunities, and appropriate rewards.

- 32 Labor will promote the appropriate re-vegetation of catchment areas, farmlands, and cleared land.
- 33 Labor will support the integration of tourism initiatives into multiple use planning for our forests.
- 34 Labor will ensure the application of the Forest Practices Code leads to sustainable forest practices.
- 35 Labor will support the attainment and retention of Forest Stewardship Council certification for public native forest management and harvesting in Tasmania in accordance with the Tasmanian Forest Agreement.
- 36 Labor will support research to better understand how Tasmania's forests contribute to the State's carbon balance.
- 37 Labor will support research that minimises the environmental and health impacts of regeneration burns.

### ***Fisheries/Aquaculture***

- 38 Labor recognises the important economic and social contribution that marine and inland fishing make to Tasmania's regional and coastal communities, and supports the use of management strategies to sustain this contribution.
- 39 Labor will use an ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management based on the principles of ecologically sustainable development.
- 40 Labor will support the development of a balanced strategy that includes the Tasmanian Marine Protected Areas Strategy whilst providing fair and equitable access to all those with interests in fish and fishing.
- 41 Labor will continue to support research and assessment of Tasmania's fisheries and their habitats.
- 42 Labor supports the use of management plans for the commercial fishing industry to monitor and maintain the sustainability of fisheries.
- 43 Labor will work closely with the Australian Government to ensure that Tasmania's fisheries are not detrimentally impacted by offshore fishing practices.
- 44 Labor supports the Australian Government's decision to implement a two-year ban on large trawling vessels such as the FV Abel Tasman pending further scientific study into their impacts on fisheries, by catch and localised depletion.
- 45 Labor supports an expanding aquaculture industry, subject to appropriate environmental controls, to produce and export more of Tasmania's world class salmon. Labor welcomes the Australian Government's decision to allow expanded marine farming in Macquarie Harbour.
- 46 Labor will continue to work with industry to protect the Tasmanian marine environment from pests and diseases.

### ***Agriculture***

- 47 Labor supports the continued development and expansion of the agriculture industry in Tasmania consistent with sustainable land and water use.

- 48 Through its Economic Development Plan, Labor will develop effective marketing strategies that capture and respond to information about national and international market trends, concentrating on changing consumer preferences. In the Asian Century, Labor will pay particular attention to capturing opportunities to market agricultural products to the expanding Asian region.
- 49 Labor will continue to support the development of Tasmania's water infrastructure to protect Tasmanian businesses from the effects of drought and provide the surety that will underpin future growth in the State's agricultural sector
- 50 Labor will promote ongoing, effective stewardship of environmental values on private land.
- 51 Labor will continue to build community partnerships to improve the capacity and confidence of rural and regional areas.
- 52 Labor recognises that a strong agricultural sector relies on its ability to diversify and adapt to changing market and environmental conditions.
- 53 Labor will continue to support Tasmania's unique agricultural sector through Tasmania-specific research, development, extension and education.
- 54 Labor will support the agricultural industry in dealing with the challenges and opportunities associated with climate change and climate policy.
- 55 Labor supports an effective biosecurity system that addresses pest and disease risk across the biosecurity continuum (pre-barrier, barrier, post-barrier).
- 56 Labor supports further protection of our clean, green image through strict primary production food safety laws and a moratorium on commercial release of genetically modified food crops and animals into the environment.
- 57 Labor supports world-leading animal welfare standards in food production, including restrictions on sow stall and cage-egg production, and will assist industry to adapt to changing consumer preferences in this area.

#### ***Water (Residential and Industrial)***

- 58 Labor believes that all Tasmanians have the right to access a clean, affordable supply of potable water.
- 59 Labor believes that improving the conservation of water requires solutions at a state, regional and household level.
- 60 Labor believes that water is of vital importance to supporting freshwater and land-based ecosystems.
- 61 Labor believes that water management should be about striking an appropriate balance between the economic, social and environmental outcomes of water use and conservation.
- 62 Labor recognises that Tasmania requires significant ongoing investment in water and sewage infrastructure.
- 63 Labor recognises that drought and climate change threaten the supplies of water in Tasmania.

- 64 Labor will continue the process of structural water and sewerage infrastructure reform by supporting the amalgamation of Tasmania's four Local Government owned water and sewage corporations into one.
- 65 Labor will continue to establish equitable catchment management regimes for water use and allocation.
- 66 Labor will apply water restrictions if the supply of water is threatened.
- 67 Labor will encourage water authorities to utilise grey water for appropriate uses.
- 68 Labor will continue to support the development of Tasmania's water infrastructure to protect Tasmanian businesses from the effects of drought and provide the surety that will underpin future growth in the State's agricultural sector.
- 69 Labor will ensure that maximum value is extracted from industrial and agricultural water use.
- 70 Labor will encourage the development and adoption of on-site systems for households and businesses to increase their water storage, conservation and recycling and reduce their water usage.
- 71 Labor supports incentives to households to achieve more sustainable water consumption.
- 72 Labor will work with industry to reduce pollution of Tasmania's waterways to levels that avoid significant adverse impact on Tasmania's land, freshwater and marine environments.

## Energy

### *Principles for managing energy*

- 73 Labor is committed to reform of Tasmania's electricity supply industry that achieves the following objectives:
  - a secure, reliable supply of electricity to Tasmanians;
  - the lowest possible electricity bills for Tasmanian businesses, households, agencies and other organisations;
  - maximising the advantages of Tasmania's investment in clean, low carbon energy; and
  - financially viable state-owned electricity businesses that run efficiently and effectively and maximise the overall economic benefit to Tasmania.
- 74 Labor believes that Bass link and the Tamar Valley Power Station are effective and strategic long term assets that secure Tasmania's energy supply during times of drought.
- 75 Labor believes that reliable, secure, safe and efficient supplies of electricity underpin certainty and confidence in the State's economy.
- 76 Labor believes that the combination of the State's natural resources, clean energy generation capacity and skills and expertise give Tasmania a distinct competitive advantage in a carbon constrained national electricity market.
- 77 Labor will take advantage of Tasmania's participation in the National Electricity Market to maximise the benefits for Tasmanian electricity customers and the commercial returns for Tasmanian Government owned electricity businesses.

***Electricity retail market***

- 78 Labor believes that full retail competition in the Tasmanian electricity market, and therefore choice for all customers, will contribute to the lowest sustainable electricity bills for customers.
- 79 Labor will facilitate the move of Aurora's retail electricity customers to new, competing private sector retailers to deliver choice and competition to Tasmanian customers from 1 January 2014.
- 80 To facilitate effective competition in Tasmania and lower the price risks to Tasmanian retail electricity customers, Labor will regulate Hydro Tasmania's wholesale contracting activities.
- 81 Labor will continue to support the sustainable growth of Hydro Tasmania's clean energy retailing business, Momentum, using the market advantages of our investment in clean energy to increase Tasmania's share of the interstate energy market.
- 82 Labor will work with community and welfare groups, business and other relevant stakeholders, to ensure Tasmanian electricity customers, particularly those who are most vulnerable, are provided with information regarding electricity market competition and their protections and rights in such an environment.
- 83 Labor will continue to support the provision of concessions to assist lower income households in meeting their utility bills.
- 84 Labor will provide information, advice and financial assistance to businesses and low income households to encourage energy efficiency.

***Tasmania's electricity businesses***

- 85 Labor will ensure the State's core electricity generation and network assets remain in public ownership.
- 86 Labor believes that a more efficient and competitive electricity industry can be achieved when there is a structural separation between electricity generation, network and retail businesses.
- 87 Labor believes that consolidation of state owned electricity generation assets, via the transfer of Tamar Valley Power Station to Hydro Tasmania, will secure the State's energy supplies into the future.
- 88 Labor will integrate Aurora's distribution system with Transend's transmission network to form a single combined network business from 1 July 2014.
- 89 Labor will work with Hydro Tasmania to ensure the security of Tasmania's electricity supply.

***Clean energy development***

- 90 Labor believes that Tasmania has significant natural advantages in the development and export of renewable energy for the benefit of all Tasmanians.
- 91 Labor believes that Tasmania's abundance of clean energy also provides significant marketing and other commercial advantages for the sale of electricity generated in Tasmania, particularly in a carbon-constrained future.

- 92 Labor will advocate for the continuation of the carbon price and the renewable energy target with the economic and environmental benefits they bring to Tasmania.
- 93 Labor believes that the State's long history with renewable energy development means Tasmania is well placed to assist businesses interstate and overseas to develop sustainable renewable energy projects.
- 94 Labor supports the growth of Hydro Tasmania's consulting business Entura as the optimal vehicle to earn income for the State by exporting knowledge and expertise in renewable energy development to the rest of the world.
- 95 Labor will encourage exploration for the identification of geothermal energy hotspots.

#### ***Small scale energy development***

- 96 Labor believes that a cost-effective secure energy supply can be enhanced by generation at the community or premises level where this contributes to delivering an efficient and cost effective network and consumer price outcome.
- 97 Labor will work co-operatively at a state and federal level to provide information, advice and financial incentives to encourage appropriate development of small scale energy generation assets.

#### ***Natural Gas***

- 98 Labor will continue to support the reticulation of natural gas to additional areas of the state where it is economical to do so.

### **Resource management and development**

#### ***Planning and development***

- 99 Labor believes that the Government's approach to planning and development should seek to balance and maximise economic, social and environmental outcomes.
- 100 Labor believes that the expansion of Tasmania's built environment must be planned carefully so that it is supported by adequate and appropriate infrastructure.
- 101 Labor believes that built industrial developments are an important contributor to Tasmania's economy and productivity.
- 102 Labor believes that Aboriginal, historical and ongoing cultural values are important in land management planning.
- 103 Labor believes that planning should seek to eliminate social isolation, tackle housing, transport and utilities affordability issues and reduce pollution.
- 104 Labor expects planning schemes to consider all of the above values.
- 105 Labor will continue to reform the planning system, including by developing and implementing a clear and consistent framework and approach for Local Government planning schemes that focuses on providing common provisions and documentation, and streamlining assessment processes, to minimise compliance costs for builders, developers and consumers.

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- 106 Labor recognises that while planning consistency, clarity and certainty are required, they must be provided in a way that respects and reflects regional differences and the genuine needs and interests of local communities.
  - 107 Labor will continue to support the development and implementation of regional planning strategies, and the Hobart Capital City Plan, in conjunction with relevant local councils.
  - 108 Labor will have a comprehensive assessment process for projects of state significance.
  - 109 Labor will assess crown land to determine its best use.
  - 110 Labor will work with local councils with the aim of ensuring that development proposals are considered within specific, realistic and commercially acceptable timeframes. Labor will continue to deliver planning assessment and appeal times for development proposals that are better than most if not all other States.
  - 111 Labor will allow all interested members of the public a reasonable opportunity to comment on planning and development schemes and proposals.

## CHAPTER 5: HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

### Health

#### *Principles of Health*

- 1 Labor is committed to equal access for all Tasmanians to high quality and affordable health care.
- 2 Labor believes that the basis for security, opportunity and equality for society is a quality public health system as it allows families and individuals to cope with ongoing health concerns and unexpected health issues.
- 3 Labor believes in an integrated Tasmanian health system which has the objectives;
  - to promote health through prevention and increased access to primary care
  - to preserve health by tackling the rising challenges that an ageing population and increased rates of chronic disease brings.
  - to restore health when it is impaired and to minimise suffering and distress during this process
  - to establish preventative health measures designed to maximise community wellbeing
- 4 Labor values the role of all workers in the health system who work to care for Tasmanians. Labor believes it is essential that health workers are given ongoing training opportunities to provide excellent health services into the future.
- 5 Labor will;
  - ensure services are delivered through a state-wide approach as close as possible to local communities as long as they are safe and sustainable;
  - ensure health services and programs are integrated into others areas of government;
  - encourage research programs designed to improve health outcomes, particularly focusing on preventative health measures;
  - require ongoing evaluation of existing health care services through comprehensive quality assurance and quality management programs; and
  - consult with health service providers, unions, consumers, and with local communities in the development and implementation of health policy.
- 6 Labor recognises that with health inflation rising beyond general inflation there is a need to reform the health system to achieve better health outcomes. Labor will maintain adequate and quality health services to the Tasmanian community, and will work constructively with unions to identify areas of efficiencies and savings to address budget pressures.<sup>lii</sup>

#### *Provision of healthcare services*

- 7 Labor will promote the better integration of acute care and primary care.
- 8 Labor will promote a close liaison between all tiers of government, government agencies, the voluntary sector, the community and unions to ensure policies are implemented in a coordinated and effective manner

- 9 Labor will ensure all Tasmanians have access to health care either through the provision of local services or through provision of transport and accommodation support where the required service can be provided safely and sustainably.

#### ***Health Promotion and Education***

- 10 Labor will support health education and preventative health measures in schools and the community, which are aimed at preventing ill health, injury and promoting good health and wellbeing outcomes, particularly for children.

#### ***Public health***

- 11 Labor will provide the best possible legislative framework for delivery of public health programs in Tasmania through the Public Health Act 1997.
- 12 Labor will encourage further co-ordination and linkages between public health, Local Government and local communities.
- 13 Labor will encourage public health campaigns in key lifestyle areas that influence health and wellbeing outcomes for example smoking, alcohol and obesity.

#### ***Health Workforce***

- 14 Labor will provide opportunities for continuous training and career opportunities for all health workers.
- 15 Labor will ensure that competitive conditions for the health workforce are maintained to ensure that workers are attracted to Tasmania.
- 16 Labor will co-operate closely with the trade union movement in seeking to have employers provide occupational health and wellbeing programs for employees, with the aim of increasing productivity.

#### ***Patient Rights***

- 17 Labor will encourage the development of systems in public hospitals to deal with complaints and concerns from patients and to monitor outcomes as part of a continuing quality improvement process.

### **Acute Health**

#### ***Hospital Services***

- 18 Labor will develop acute health services in line with Tasmania's Health Plan.
- 19 Labor will continue to support the State's three major public hospitals.<sup>liii</sup>
- 20 Labor will look at innovative models for acute health care delivery in consultation with communities, unions medical and nursing staff.
- 21 Labor will ensure access to safe and sustainable specialist medical services.

#### ***Ambulance and Emergency Transport***

- 22 Labor will ensure a high standard of ambulance services and other medical transport support is further developed and maintained

## Primary Health

### *Community Health Services*

- 23 Labor will encourage and promote the delivery of a flexible range of health services including nursing and specialist clinics in community settings or the home, provided these services can be delivered safely, effectively and efficiently. Labor will;
- promote health equity between rural and urban areas through ensuring access to safe and sustainable health services for rural and regional areas and through working with the Commonwealth Government to encourage doctors, other health care professionals and allied health workers to practice/work in rural or isolated areas; and
  - improve transport and accommodation support for people who are required to travel to receive appropriate health care.
- 24 Labor will work with the Australian Government to improve the delivery of palliative care services across all levels of health care. <sup>liv</sup>

### *Mental Health Services*

- 25 Labor will continue to support and work to improve Mental Health Services both in the Government and non-Government sectors and continue to reduce stigmatisation whilst increasing the range of mental health services in the community.
- 26 Labor will ensure that support is available for families and carers dealing with mental health issues when needed and ensure appropriate care for young people in accessing mental health services.
- 27 Labor recognises service audits and informed evaluations as sound budgetary tools.

### *Dental Health Services*

- 28 Labor will ensure that adequate dental treatment is available to all holders of government concession cards.
- 29 Labor recognises that good oral health is central to maintaining general health and those services to achieve this need to be contemporary and well planned in consultation with major stake holders.

### *Communicable Diseases*

- 30 Labor will ensure that there is an appropriate legislative framework to underpin services to support people with a blood borne virus and in line with national efforts, pursue strategies to minimise the transmission of blood borne viruses and sexually transmitted infections, with a focus on education and prevention.
- 31 Labor will promote measures to support people infected with blood borne viruses and sexually transmitted infections through:
- Diagnosis, treatment and support;
  - Care and health maintenance;
  - Research;
  - Monitoring and Surveillance; and
  - Workforce development.

### **Aboriginal Health**

32 Labor will continue to support Aboriginal medical services and encourage the development of services with the Aboriginal community.

### **Women's Health**

33 Labor will:

- maintain a policy focus on women's health;
- ensure that adequate breast screening and cervical cancer services are available to women;
- ensure that women have access to appropriate family planning services including equitable access to contraception;
- ensure that women have access to equitable and legal terminations through Tasmanian Health Services;<sup>lv</sup>
- ensure that women have access to excellent pre-natal, birthing, neo-natal and post natal services;
- introduce measures to improve nutrition, and health and well-being outcomes for women, including support services to resolve eating disorders; and
- work with media and community organisations to seek to promote images of women as healthy active contributors to society, and to reduce images which lead to the sexual objectification of women.

### **Men's Health**

34 Labor will continue to promote initiatives to improve outcomes in relation to men's health with a particular emphasis on preventative measures.

### **Children and Youth Health**

35 Labor will establish a Youth Health Policy Unit within the Department of Health and Human Services with specific responsibility for developing a state-wide Youth Health Policy in consultation with non-government youth service agencies.

36 Labor will make the Youth Health Policy the centrepiece of Labor's strategy in government and will focus on three specific areas: reinvigorating the role of government in relation to youth health problems, better resourcing families and local communities in the fight against youth health problems, and addressing alcohol and drug problems in youth.

37 Labor will continue to provide preventative and primary health services for young people.

### **Child Beauty Pageants**

38 Labor acknowledges the potential harmful nature of US style Child Beauty Pageants and supports the active discouragement of these type of events occurring in Tasmania

### **Alcohol and Drug Services**

39 Labor will review policies and programs across Government to:

- Reduce the consumption of alcohol and tobacco;
- Reduce the incidences of misuse of pharmaceutical drugs and the non-medical use of other drugs;

- Prioritise to preventative, educative and community-based programs rather than institutional, remedial or compulsory schemes; and
  - Continue to support the further development of a best practice pharmacotherapy program, including methadone.
- 40 Labor will promote public education and awareness campaigns about the health dangers of alcohol tobacco and other drug use and reduce public advertising of alcohol, tobacco products, and other drugs of addiction.
- 41 Labor will support and increase access to harm minimisation policies such as the Needle Availability Program and work with the community sector to improve the implementation of these policies.

## Human Services

### *Principles of Human Services*

- 42 Labor will provide an effective community education program to ensure that those most likely to be in need of assistance are aware of available community services.
- 43 Labor will ensure co-operation between government departments and further develop community based partnerships with agencies and their consumers.
- 44 Labor will continue to operate Children and Family Centres across the state, under the direction of the Minister, operating in conjunction with other government and voluntary bodies.
- 45 Through the Tasmanian Social Inclusion Strategy Labor supports and co-ordinates welfare services at various Government levels.

### *Disability Services*

- 46 Labor recognises the pivotal role of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) in delivering appropriately funded services to people with Disabilities.
- 47 Labor will continue to enshrine the rights of people with disabilities and protect them from discrimination and exploitation in Tasmanian society.
- 48 Labor will ensure that all public buildings, infrastructure, public transport and facilities are accessible.
- 49 Labor will ensure equal opportunities for people with disabilities seeking employment in conjunction with trade Unions and affirmative action practices.
- 50 Labor will ensure there are adequate services available to meet the needs of adults and children with disabilities.
- 51 Labor will continue to support both the Premier's Disability Advisory Council and the Minister's Disability Advisory Committee.
- 52 Labor will provide a range of concessions to recipients of the disability pension who are holders of the Pensioner Concession Card to assist in meeting the cost of living, including vehicle registration fees, transport and mobility costs.

- 53 Labor will establish an independent statutory advocate (Office of Public Advocate) to investigate and research service provision for Tasmanians with psychiatric and intellectual disabilities.
- 54 Labor will provide special support services by involving other disciplines such as therapists and psychologists in normal school programs.
- 55 Labor will expand the number of remedial teachers and teacher's aide to assist students with disabilities.
- 56 Labor will, where appropriate, expand special education facilities in close proximity to regular schools for interchange where integrated schooling is not suitable.
- 57 Labor will encourage teacher training institutions to review their entry requirements for people with disabilities seeking to qualify as teachers, and assist by financial and other means the appointment of such teachers.
- 58 Labor will assist the parents and carers of people with disabilities in playing a full and complete role in the education of people with disabilities by providing access to family counselling services and facilitating the maximum degree of input from families.
- 59 Labor will give priority in researching and planning to the provision of appropriate residential accommodation for people with disabilities.
- 60 Labor will give appropriate priority to people with disabilities in the allocation of housing places.
- 61 Labor will develop a comprehensive Recreation Strategy based on awareness and capacity for people with disabilities.
- 62 Labor will review the provision of financial assistance enabling people with disabilities to meet their own transport needs whether by use of taxis or adapted motor vehicles.

## Community services

### *Sexual Assault Support Services*

- 63 Labor will ensure that Sexual Assault Services receive adequate funding to provide consistent state-wide services including:
  - crisis intervention services;
  - counselling, support and advocacy services;
  - empowerment education; and
  - preventative education including financial counselling.

### *Non-government agencies*

- 64 Labor will continue to ensure adequacy of funding for the community welfare sector with a view to ensuring that agencies have the appropriate financial and human resources to maintain, providing an appropriate level of indexation, and develop services and move the funding for all State Government funded community sector organisations to a triennial basis.
- 65 Labor will continue to support neighbourhood houses to facilitate the development of a wide variety of activities within communities.

- 66 Labor will establish and maintain regular contact with the various peak welfare groups representing the interests of community sector in Tasmania.
- 67 Labor will establish bi-monthly briefings with the relevant Minister for peak community sector organisations.

### ***Family support***

- 68 Labor recognises the importance of family support services in protecting our most vulnerable and helping to build strong communities. <sup>lvi</sup> Labor will ensure that family support services provided by both government agencies and non-government organisations are accessible to all Tasmanian families on the basis of need.
- 69 Labor will continue to expand and improve family support services through the establishment of the Gateways and Integrated Family support services in areas of need.
- 70 Labor will aim its programs to support families, as early as possible, to give families the best chance to remain viable, healthy and fulfilling environments for children.
- 71 Labor will provide a diverse range of emergency housing and support services for those families which suffer temporary upheaval caused by family illness, crisis or domestic strife.
- 72 Labor will expand, make available and administer on a regional basis, programs providing family support and counselling services for individuals and families through recognizing that this approach ensures that maximum resources are made available before situations reach crisis point.

## **Children and Youth Services**

### ***Children***

- 73 Labor will uphold the proclaimed United Nations Declaration of the Rights of the Child, the ten principles being the basis for the development of policy aimed at providing the highest possible standard of child care and welfare.
- 74 Labor will continue to improve services for children at risk of abuse and continue to invest in services which provide this support with a view to ensuring an adequate level of service provision throughout the State
- 75 Labor recognises that a comprehensive package of early child development programmes and services for children, mothers and other caregivers leads to improved health and well-being.
- 76 Labor will implement the Government embracing change report as per the scheduled time frame of 2011 – 2021. <sup>lvii</sup>

### ***Out of home and alternative care***

- 77 Labor will provide foster care for children across a range of options which might include providing private foster parents, approved non-government organisations and other state Government services.
- 78 Labor will, where possible, ensure that children from different ethnic and cultural backgrounds are placed with families of similar origin.

- 79 Labor will ensure adequate screening of prospective foster care parents is done to protect and promote the welfare of children.
- 80 Labor will deliver appropriate counselling and education about the care of children by parents.
- 81 Labor will provide a range of foster programs which provide short, medium and long term care.
- 82 Labor will ensure a range of out of home and alternative care placement options are adequately provided and resourced to meet the range of physical and social needs of children in community and State care.

### Older Tasmanians

- 83 Labor will appoint a Commissioner for the Aged who is responsible for the evaluation of equity of access, service provisions and outcomes.
- 84 Labor will fully resource the Commissioner for the Aged
- 85 Labor will ensure that the Commissioner:
  - has direct access to the Minister and Heads of Agency;
  - leads a small policy unit which can receive complaints and provide policy recommendations to the Minister.
  - establishes an Advisory Committee with representatives of interest groups involved with the aged.
- 86 Labor will, in collaboration with the Commonwealth Government develop regional plans for an equitable distribution of facilities and services to provide a comprehensive system of assessment, domiciliary care, rehabilitation and accommodation.
- 87 Labor will reform the present system of domiciliary and community services to include meals on wheels, home help, home maintenance and modification, shopping, home visiting, nursing and other professional services, day centres and hospitals.
- 88 Labor will review the current public transport system ensuring older people have equitable and affordable access.
- 89 Labor will develop on a regional and local basis, a range of accommodation and health services commencing with:
  - assessment and rehabilitation units including independent living units;
  - short term care for crisis situations and relative relief;
  - hostels and homes providing care for persons suffering dementia; and
  - nursing homes and hospitals for those requiring more intensive care.
- 90 Labor will encourage older people to participate in the development and management of services, particularly at the local level.
- 91 Labor will assist older people to remain independent for as long as possible.
- 92 Labor will match Commonwealth funds for programs such as Home and Community Care

- 93 Labor will offer a range of appropriate accommodation and services for those who, because of limited means, lack a suitable home, are experiencing frailty or other disadvantage.

## Community Development

### *Principles of Community Development*

- 94 Labor will create mechanisms to bring about a more equitable distribution of social resources, by giving greatest priority to the redistribution of income, wealth and power.
- 95 Labor believes the impetus for community development occurs whenever there is recognition of shared interest, by community in supporting the expansion of community based services.
- 96 Labor believes an action plan for community development is integral to its approach to the community services sector.
- 97 Labor believes in seeking maximum involvement of all sections of the community, especially clients, in the formation of policy, determination of need, administration of services and maintenance of standards, within that Action Plan.
- 98 Labor recognises the future success of any economy is dependent upon securing an appropriate mix of social and economic policy.
- 99 Labor recognises social programs and public investment schemes are seen as being a prerequisite to sustainable economic advancement.
- 100 Labor recognises long term solutions to social problems can only be solved through the process of community development where there is a community of interest based around geographic locality, work, cultural or ethnic affinity, disability or a combination of these factors.
- 101 Labor will ensure solutions to local problems are best addressed by the communities involved themselves.
- 102 Labor will provide an effective community education program to ensure that those most likely to be in need of assistance are aware of available community services.
- 103 Labor will ensure co-operation between government departments and further develop community based partnerships with agencies and their consumers.
- 104 Labor will ensure the impact of significant developments affecting a particular community or communities is assessed and that this involves social cost/benefit analyses and encourages full participation by local communities.
- 105 Labor will support the development of a Social Inclusion Strategy for Tasmania that co-ordinates welfare services at various Government levels within a system where services are better planned and provided at a decentralised level consistent with effective administration.
- 106 Labor will research the need for, and conduct an ongoing evaluation of the adequacy and efficiency of existing government programs.

- 107 Labor will ensure that a comprehensive perspective of the needs of the State is obtained by having a Social Inclusion Commissioner to focus on the special needs of typical communities such as small rural communities, those in isolated areas, ethnic communities and other community groups.
- 108 Labor will co-operate closely with the trade union movement in seeking to have employers provide occupational health and wellbeing programs for employees, with the aim of increasing productivity.
- 109 Labor will develop and implement Partnership Agreements between the State Government and Local Government.
- 110 Labor will promote and support Local Government involvement in developing existing services such as accommodation, transport, employment or welfare officers and recreation officers.
- 111 Labor will, on a shared basis with Local Government authorities, fund the employment of community development officers.
- 112 Labor will make available specific purpose grants to Local Government to employ persons to provide secretarial, administrative and material assistance to community groups.
- 113 Labor will develop, in conjunction with Local Government, a strategic plan to co-ordinate the work of State and Local Government in recreation development throughout the State.

#### ***Empowering local communities***

- 114 Labor will develop a three-year Local Government youth program in Tasmania's three major regions.
- 115 Labor will continue to provide support for community organisations or Neighbourhood Houses aimed at improving social and living skills for young people and parents;
- 116 Labor will continuously monitor the adequacy of funding for the provision of family mediation and counselling services to ensure effectiveness.
- 117 Labor will ensure cross program and interdepartmental service provision is well coordinated in order to maximise the use of resources.

#### ***Carers***

- 118 Labor will provide carers suitable support services as part of a 'caring for the carer' strategy;
- 119 Labor will increase opportunities for respite care for carers.

### **Housing**

#### ***Shelter***

- 120 Labor believes adequate and secure housing is the right of all Tasmanians.
- 121 Labor will ensure that women and children are provided with appropriate, secure and affordable housing.
- 122 Labor will support growth of the co-operative and co-housing sector to better meet the needs of women, and in particular women with disabilities and older women.

- 123 Labor will ensure that residential tenancy legislation fairly balances the rights between owners and tenants, with particular regard to the right of women and children to reside in safe accommodation.
- 124 Labor will provide information and access to, the full range of housing and financial options including financial counselling.
- 125 Labor will ensure the provision of appropriate public housing for young people.
- 126 Labor believes adequate and secure housing is a key to individual and family wellbeing and necessary for full participation in a community.
- 127 Labor believes adequate and secure housing is linked to employment opportunities, and access to education and health services.
- 128 Labor recognises that continued investment in affordable housing options Strategy requires ongoing commitment.
- 129 Labor will place emphasis on providing choice through innovative housing programs, balanced to meet the many different needs of Tasmanians.
- 130 Labor will provide a variety of home ownership programs to help those who may otherwise be unable to achieve it, and well-managed public and social housing “public housing” for those who require rental accommodation.
- 131 Labor will implement major housing programs in five major housing areas: social and public housing, private housing affordability, residential and tenancy issues, and innovative housing programs.
- 132 Labor will where public or social housing programs are not able to meet the needs of indigenous groups, develop relevant programs under the umbrella of community housing programs.

#### **Homelessness**

- 133 Labor will develop a state homelessness strategy and action plan.

#### **Housing strategy**

- 134 Labor will continue to implement the in four key housing areas of Public and community housing, Private housing affordability – rental and ownership and Residential law reform.
- 135 Labor will encourage innovative land usage and the feasibility of medium density housing.
- 136 Labor will continue to encourage energy efficiency in new homes and existing public housing stocks.
- 137 Labor will demonstrate an ongoing commitment to social housing as a minimum percentage of total housing funding

#### **Special Needs**

- 138 Labor believes that the following groups in the community have special housing needs: Women, Indigenous People, Migrants and Refugees, Youth, Older people, those requiring Crisis Accommodation and People with a Disability.

- 139 Labor will ensure a process of ongoing liaison between the government and groups representing women with special needs.
- 140 Labor will consult with Tasmanian Aboriginal people on their housing needs with the intent of obtaining a mutually satisfying Aboriginal housing policy.
- 141 Labor will consult with organisations involved in the provision of youth housing to determine an appropriate strategy.
- 142 Labor will, in conjunction with the Commonwealth Government, increase the supply of special youth accommodation in Tasmania.
- 143 Labor will consult with older people and their representatives about their housing issues.
- 144 Labor will maintain an adequate number of units designed for older people through the construction of units and similar suitable dwellings and spot purchasing programs.
- 145 Labor will ensure people with disabilities have a choice of housing models, including independent living units, family living, group homes, duplex living, adaptable housing, co-operative housing or single accommodation.
- 146 Labor will maintain and upgrade adequate number of units designed for elderly persons, with construction of these units and similar dwellings increased where necessary, as will spot purchasing programs.

#### ***Housing advisory services***

- 147 Labor believes that a housing advisory service based on a one-stop information centre model should be provided for all people needing information on any aspect of housing.
- 148 Labor recognises full information on building, purchase costs, and rental costs are essential for informed decision making.
- 149 Labor will establish a centre to provide information on housing and related matters, including:
  - all housing programs implemented by State government agencies;
  - handbooks for people wishing to buy or build homes in Tasmania;
  - financial, gardening, painting and renovation advice; and
  - Information to provide tenants and landlords.

#### ***Public Housing Principles***

- 150 Labor believes the role of government includes responsibility for ensuring that housing remains affordable for all.
- 151 Labor will continue to provide access to social and/or public housing.
- 152 Labor will consider establishing 'Public and Social Housing Principles' in relation to public housing.
- 153 Labor will abide by benchmarks as agreed with the Commonwealth Government in National Partnership Agreements in relation to housing affordability.

### ***Innovative Housing***

- 154 Labor will fund a Community Housing Resourcing body, whose role would be to:
- Promote the development of all forms of community housing;
  - Provide support, resourcing, training and research for community housing organizations;
  - Provide funding to Shelter Tasmania as the peak body representing homeless and persons suffering from housing stress;
  - Adopt Community Housing standards and set objectives in consultation with the community housing sector;
  - Develop accreditation standards for all community housing; and
  - Ensure basic financial reporting and best practice in tenancy participation.
- 155 Labor will encourage and support the expansion of co-operatives, encourage resident participation models, and the formation of tenants groups.
- 156 Labor will encourage the expansion of co-operatives and consider applications for new co-operatives.

### **Preventative Health**

#### ***Sport, recreation and fitness***

- 157 Labor aims to increase participation in sport and active recreation as a driver of preventative health outcomes and believes that increased participation in sport and recreation is likely to lead to;
- improved physical health
  - improved psychological health and wellbeing
  - improved community capacity and cohesion<sup>lviii</sup>
- 158 Labor believes sport, recreation and physical activity is essential for both physical and mental health and well-being and plays an important part in preventative health programs. The principal objective is to promote the development of a comprehensive, state-wide sporting and recreational system that caters for and supports all sections of the community, from participation programs to high performance sport.
- 159 Labor recognises that Government financial assistance for such systems is likely to contribute to long-term cost savings in the provision of public health services.
- 160 Labor will ensure physical education "physical education" and sport will be maintained as a fundamental activity in schools and within the community as a whole.
- 161 Labor will make every endeavour to ensure all members of the community have access to sport, recreation and physical activity opportunities, with particular attention to those groups whose participation rates are traditionally low.
- 162 Labor will ensure the provision of appropriate sport and recreation facilities, playing fields and equipment that meet community needs and encourage multi-purpose and shared use.
- 163 Labor will make available on-going education and the expertise of sporting and recreation specialists to all communities through Sport and Recreation Tasmania.

- 164 Labor will provide support for community-focused programs that have been established to address barriers to participation in sport, recreation and physical activity.
- 165 Labor will ensure that adequate resources are available through Sport and Recreation Tasmania to increase participation opportunities throughout the Tasmanian community.
- 166 Labor recognises the non-competitive aspects of sport and physical activity through new sport, modified sports and non-traditional activities with a view to educating children in sound practices designed to ensure life-long maintenance of an optimum standard of health.

#### ***Tasmanian Institute of Sport***

- 167 Labor will continue to support the Tasmanian Institute of Sport and encourage the Institute to continue to develop programs for our leading athletes and provide the best possible opportunity for them to pursue their goals while remaining in Tasmania.
- 168 Labor will support the Institute to remain at the forefront of advances in sport technology as part of the national elite sports network.

#### ***Premier's Physical Activity Council***

- 169 Labor will provide ongoing support for the Premier's Physical Activity Council, recognising the key role it plays in the facilitation of projects and programs designed to develop healthier and more active communities. Labor will ensure that, as part of this ongoing commitment, government policies, strategies and programs reflect the aspirations and goals of the council.

#### ***High quality sporting facilities***

- 170 Labor will work with Sport and Recreation Tasmania and other relevant sport and recreation bodies to ensure the upgrade of sporting facilities in addition to those already hosting national and international events to meet adequate standards for both community and elite sport needs.

#### ***Development of sport and recreation for people with a disability***

- 171 Labor will give priority to the development of strong and representative community-based organisations at the state level that co-ordinate, promote and develop inclusive sport, recreation and physical activity opportunities for people with a disability.

### **Women**

- 172 Labor believes women have the right to participate in society fully and without discrimination. Labor's objective is to ensure that women are able to fully and equally participate in society — politically, economically, socially — to the full extent of their choice without fear of discrimination or exclusion on the basis of gender, gender preference, marital status, or parenting responsibilities.
- 173 Labor recognises the economic dependence of women is a barrier to the comprehensive realisation of their human rights, and to the economic development of this country and state;
- 174 Labor recognises that the disadvantages which women face in education, training and subsequent employment must be addressed if women are to participate effusively in the economy.

- 175 Labor recognises the right of women to work and the value of women's unpaid work both socially and economically.
- 176 Labor believes that the barriers to women's full participation in the workforce and economic life must be removed, including lack of Early Childhood Education and Care, unequal access to employment, education and training, infrastructure and support and services, and inadequate retirement income.
- 177 Labor will consult women, especially those who may be socially or economically marginalised within the community when forming new policy initiatives with post policy implementation monitoring.
- 178 Labor will ensure women's access to education, training and employment programs to facilitate their labour force re-entry, and increase opportunities for economic participation through self-employment.

### ***Economic Independence***

- 179 Labor will continue to fund social and community enterprise programs to assist low income and disadvantaged women participate in the economy

### ***Gender policy development***

- 180 Labor will ensure that policies relating to gender equity are incorporated in:
- Staff recruitment, selection and promotion;
  - In-service and retraining provisions;
  - Provision of specialist support services;
  - System and school evaluation provisions;
  - Decision-making structures and processes; and
  - An annual status report to Parliament on the implementation of the above.
- 181 Labor supports through legislation same sex couples the same rights as opposite sex couples to adopt children.
- 182 Labor will develop appropriate curricular and resource material for girls' physical education and sport programs ensuring an equitable allocation of funds are provided.
- 183 Labor will develop links between schools, school systems and the media to ensure that achievements of girls in sport and new developments are effectively publicised.
- 184 Labor will introduce and resource an Affirmative Action program for women employees, provide paid parental leave to its employees, provide unpaid long-term family leave to its employees, modify the State Government Superannuation scheme to accommodate workers with interrupted work patterns, recognise needs of employees with family responsibilities and enact Equal Employment Opportunity Legislation.
- 185 Labor will address the needs of long-term unemployed women and women returning to the workforce, review State awards to remove discriminatory provisions, take steps to ensure equal pay for work of comparable value, introduce affirmative action programs for women to achieve equality in all areas of employment and training and provide infrastructure support to women for enterprise development and recognise and celebrate their successes.

### **Education**

- 186 Labor will implement community education for women with special needs in relation to information technology, including indigenous women, those of non-English speaking background and women with a disability;
- 187 Labor will ensure competency standards and accreditation processes recognise skills acquired and used by women.
- 188 Labor will ensure the recognition of prior learning of women, particularly of women of non-English speaking backgrounds.
- 189 Labor will fund the provision of programs, which encourage young women to enter non-traditional areas of work.

### **Violence**

- 190 Labor will ensure accessible and equitable justice for women and their children.
- 191 Labor will design, implement and evaluate perpetrator treatment programs at the earliest where violence is emerging in a relationship, as well as for high risk offenders.
- 192 Labor will ensure that services meet the needs of women and their children, through strengthening services and workforce capacity and increasing access to safe accommodation;
- 193 Labor recognises the significant impact family violence has on children and therefore will ensure the provision of counselling and support services to children affected by family violence.
- 194 Labor will provide leadership in building safe communities to ensure change is achieved and sustained, by focusing on prevention, strengthening community leadership awareness and understanding, promoting positive male behaviours and enhancing women's economic independence.
- 195 Labor will provide state-wide sexual assault support services for women.

### **Youth**

- 196 Labor believes that young people are important to the future of Tasmania. Labor's youth objective is to ensure that young people choose to remain in the state to reach their full potential.
- 197 Labor believes successful communication with young people in all regions of Tasmania, both directly and through their various representatives, is central to giving young people a strong voice in our community and to achieving Labor's youth strategy.
- 198 Labor recognises the importance of mentoring programmes in the development of our young people.
- 199 Labor will provide adequate resources to meet the needs of the youth sector, in Government and non-Government organisations, so as to provide young people with strong representation and assist in dealing with the problems of youth.

### **Agency Youth Policy**

200 Labor will work to properly integrate and facilitate the activities and services these organisations provide to young people and provide some centralised training for volunteer and professional nongovernment youth workers, particularly focusing on issues involving government expertise, such as employment, the legal system, family relationships, housing, health issues, drug abuse and sexual abuse.

### **Youth Sector Action Plan**

201 Labor will require all departments to prepare an Agency Youth Policy including broad principles and specific objectives for implementation across specific programs.

### **Youth Training**

202 Labor will support youth services currently provided by Local Government whilst supporting Local Government to try to ensure some continuity in delivery of youth services throughout the state.

203 Labor will conduct an audit of non-government youth services.

204 Labor will provide support for local communities to develop Community Youth Plans for submission to Government, which address local youth issues and are coordinated through Local Government.

205 Labor will facilitate debate around Community Youth Plans with each Plan being reviewed by the Youth Advisory Council and investigate mechanisms to facilitate access and equity of youth services for all young people regardless of location, cultural or ethnic background, disability or sexual identity.

206 Labor will develop specific initiatives to improve access to vocational education and training programs for disadvantaged groups such as young women, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and young people with disabilities.

207 Labor will provide incentives for government departments, statutory authorities and Local Government to take on more trainees under the Australian Vocational Certificate Training System.

208 Labor will examine the feasibility of a specific Youth Employment Service employing advocate in each of the three regions of Tasmania to provide personal assistance to young people who are disadvantaged in the labour market.

209 Labor will address all existing barriers to the employment of young people with a view to removing such barriers

### **Youth Suicide**

210 Labor recognises the tragic circumstances associated with youth suicide and will continue to ensure the provision of training for teachers, health professionals and youth workers to enable the early detection of suicidal behaviours.

### **Youth Justice**

211 Labor will ensure that children have access to justice, in particular access to legal advice and legal representation.

212 Labor will continue to review the practical operation of the Youth Justice Act and of the Children, Young Persons and their Families Act with amendments to strengthen as appropriate.

***Youth Political Participation***

213 Labor will encourage young people to be involved in the political process.

## CHAPTER 6: TOURISM, CLIMATE CHANGE, ENVIRONMENT, CULTURAL HERITAGE AND ARTS

### Environment

#### *Principles for protecting our natural environment*

- 1 Labor believes that our natural and cultural heritage must be fostered and our landscapes protected for environmental, social, cultural, economic, educational and scientific purposes, as well as for Tasmania's future.
- 2 Labor will work with the community to achieve environmental outcomes that are consistent with an environmentally-responsible reputation.
- 3 Labor will work to prevent degradation of our environment.

#### *Natural heritage*

- 4 Labor notes that almost all of Tasmania's National Parks and World Heritage Areas have been established by Labor Governments and reaffirms its commitment to protecting their natural beauty and cultural significance.
- 5 Labor will support environmental protection through environmental and land management services.
- 6 Labor will assess all values, including natural, traditional, cultural and heritage and economic, in land management planning.
- 7 Labor will ensure the development of sustainable production systems and management practices that maintain rehabilitate or improve biodiversity and ecosystem.
- 8 Labor will maintain its world class system of National Parks and Reserves to protect and conserve natural and cultural values.
- 9 Labor will support the development and implementation of management plans for all National Parks and Reserves.
- 10 Labor will engage local communities and user groups in the management of reserves with which they have a particular connection.
- 11 Labor will promote effective stewardship of environmental values on private land.
- 12 Labor will work cooperatively with landowners to restore or maintain native habitat and wildlife corridors.
- 13 Labor will compensate landowners prevented from developing or utilising their properties because of government environmental or cultural decisions.
- 14 Labor will support measures to identify the most seriously degraded areas and prioritise them for immediate remediation and rehabilitation.

#### *Waste management and recycling*

- 15 Labor believes that wastage must be minimised and re-use maximised.

- 16 Labor will work towards the elimination of materials that cannot be re-used, recycled or biodegraded (in particular the elimination of non-biodegradable plastic bags) except where there are no viable or practical alternatives.
- 17 Labor will develop an education campaign to encourage consumer participation in recycling.
- 18 Labor will introduce a reusable (and recyclable) container deposit scheme, such as that which operates in South Australia.
- 19 Labor will adopt Government procurement policies that favour the purchase of recyclable, biodegradable and environmentally friendly materials.

#### ***Hazardous waste***

- 20 Labor will co-operate with the Commonwealth Government in the development of national procedures to monitor the generation, movement and disposal of hazardous waste.
- 21 Labor will require clear and appropriate warnings and other advice to be present on any facility or container containing hazardous material.
- 22 Labor will limit to safe levels the amount of contamination by potentially hazardous chemicals allowed in air, soil and water according to sound biological and epidemiological evidence.

#### ***Dry land systems***

- 23 Labor will work cooperatively with stakeholders to find and implement appropriate, economically feasible and environmentally responsible controls on weeds, pests and diseases.
- 24 Labor will work with the community and community organisations to continue to improve the welfare and protection of domestic and agricultural animals.
- 25 Labor will cooperate with hunting and fishing groups to implement sustainable and humane management plans for native and introduced game and fish species.
- 26 Labor will promote the development of property based wildlife management plans as a way of helping to monitor populations and conserve habitat on private land.

#### ***Wetlands***

- 27 Labor will ensure adequate conservation of wetland ecosystems through their incorporation in Tasmania's reserve system.
- 28 Labor will co-operate with the Commonwealth Government to implement the provisions of the Ramsar Convention in relation to Ramsar listed wetlands.
- 29 Labor will provide advice and incentives to private landowners to create, conserve and manage wetlands on their properties.
- 30 Labor will work co-operatively with local communities and user groups to refine the state-wide inventory of wetlands by qualifying typical, unique and sensitive wetland habitats and their communities.
- 31 Labor will establish wetlands information centres to educate the public on the natural and cultural values of wetlands.

### ***Marine species and ecosystems***

- 32 Labor will develop an integrated management planning system that reduces conflict between development and conservation in coastal, estuarine and marine areas.
- 33 Labor will support the implementation of the Tasmanian Marine Protected Areas Strategy.
- 34 Labor will promote the use of habitat mapping to identify typical, unique and sensitive marine habitats and their communities.
- 35 Labor will protect estuarine habitat and support environmentally sustainable aquaculture.
- 36 Labor will work closely with the Australian Government to ensure that Tasmania's fisheries are not detrimentally impacted by offshore fishing practices.
- 37 Labor will work closely with the Australian Government, international partners and community groups for the protection of all Cetacean (whale and dolphin) species.
- 38 Labor will protect the Tasmanian marine environment from pests and diseases.

### ***Coasts***

- 39 Labor will develop a coastal protection and planning framework that combines sustainable development with protection of natural, cultural heritage and social values.
- 40 Labor will develop regional community involvement in coastline issues through consultation.
- 41 Labor will maintain public access to the coast.

### ***Threats to ecosystems***

- 42 Labor will, through the Parks and Wildlife Service and Forestry Tasmania, work with fire services, Landcare groups and other community based groups to ensure the survival of fire dependant ecological communities and mitigate the threat of wildfire to the natural environment, public and private property.
- 43 Labor will develop programs to educate the community on the dangers to both people and the environment of wildfire with a particular aim of eliminating the threat of 'firebugs'.

### ***Weeds, pests and diseases***

- 44 Labor will ensure threats from weeds, pests and diseases are reduced.
- 45 Labor will promote research on the environmental effects of and practical control measures for feral domestic animals.
- 46 Labor will ensure that stringent biosecurity is maintained to preserve Tasmania's relative freedom from pests and diseases.
- 47 Labor will increase community involvement in both agricultural and environmental weed and pest eradication programs.
- 48 Labor will provide resources to enable rapid and flexible response to critical threats from exotic pests and diseases.

### ***Rare, threatened and endangered species***

- 49 Labor will ensure that the listing and de-listing of species as 'rare', 'vulnerable' or 'endangered' is based on thorough and objective scientific evidence.

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- 50 Labor will engage community expertise in working with scientists to actively monitor populations of rare, threatened and endangered species.
  - 51 Labor will support the development of community based programs to assist in the recognition of threatened species or ecological communities.

#### ***Nuclear hazards***

- 52 Labor believes that while the potential benefits of nuclear energy should be investigated, there must be due consideration of the socio-economic costs, risks and benefits posed by the technology.
- 53 Labor believes that the dangers posed by radioactive decay, nuclear fission and fusion necessitate governments and political parties proceeding in a highly conservative manner.
- 54 Labor will require nuclear powered ships entering Tasmanian harbours to prepare an environmental impact statement in line with Labor's commitment to environment impact assessment legislation.
- 55 Labor will allow nuclear powered ship visits on the proviso that appropriate security officers of the Tasmanian Government are given sufficient information to assess the risk posed to our ports.
- 56 Labor will not allow nuclear-armed warships to enter Tasmanian waters and harbours and will educate the public as to the risk posed by visiting nuclear powered and/or armed vessels.

#### ***Nuclear waste***

- 57 Labor believes nuclear waste is an obvious by-product of the nuclear age and should only be stored in Tasmania in sites where it can have no impact on ground, water and air.
- 58 Labor will fully co-operate with the Commonwealth in the development of national procedures and standards to categorise and monitor the generation, storage, transport, usage and disposal of nuclear materials in both industry and medicine.
- 59 Labor will ensure that these procedures and standards are regularly reviewed in line with world's best practices to ensure adequate protection for workers, members of the public and the environment.
- 60 Labor will ensure there are information and advisory services on potential environmental contaminations, particularly in the workplace.
- 61 Labor will minimise the importation of hazardous wastes into the State.

#### ***Antarctic Division***

- 62 Labor believes that Tasmania has a unique relationship with Antarctica through the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) and Antarctic Gateway. This relationship presents tangible benefits for the state economy.
- 63 Labor actively supports Tasmania as the home of Antarctic expeditions, science and policy-making and will work to protect that relationship.

- 64 Labor will encourage Federal funding for ongoing shipping support and the maintenance of our research stations and Antarctic science projects in order for Tasmania to maintain its Antarctic presence.
- 65 Labor will continue to implement the State Government's Antarctic Sector Development Plan which seeks to maintain and strategically expand on the 830 Tasmanian jobs created by Antarctic-related activities.

### ***Climate Change***

- 66 Labor believes that climate change is the greatest environmental threat to human survival and biodiversity on earth.
- 67 Labor believes that governments at all levels – local, state and national – have a role in tackling climate change and must take urgent action to do so.
- 68 Labor will take broad comprehensive scientific and economic advice when consulting and deciding on actions to tackle climate change.
- 69 Labor will set greenhouse gas emissions targets in order to tackle climate change. These targets will be assessed against credible scientific and economic advice.
- 70 Labor will participate in and support an established federal emissions trading scheme.
- 71 Labor will investigate how best to encourage the installation of photovoltaic power sources within the community.
- 72 Labor will aim for the Tasmanian Government to eventually become carbon neutral through initiatives such as:
  - Accurate reporting of government agencies' carbon footprints;
  - Greenhouse friendly procurement policies;
  - The establishment of a green vehicle fleet;
  - Energy efficient government buildings; and
  - A carbon offset scheme for government emissions-producing activities such as government air travel.

### ***Pollution control***

- 73 Labor will work with the Australian and other state governments and relevant international bodies to ensure the development of the highest possible, economically feasible standards of control of emissions of primary and secondary industries, transportation systems and human waste management systems.
- 74 Labor will implement state of the art emission controls on State Government vehicles and thermal power generation systems.
- 75 Labor will establish limits on industrial emissions to curtail their impact on the human population and the environment.
- 76 Labor will encourage and assist operators that are making a reasonable and genuine effort to keep their emissions below permissible limits.

- 77 Labor will ensure that penalties for operators that refuse to comply with their pollution control obligations are severe enough to have a deterrent effect.

## Tourism

- 78 Labor believes tourism is a highly valuable industry that significantly contributes to the economic and social wellbeing of the State.
- 79 Labor believes in a strategic, collaborative approach between private and public sectors to maximise the benefits that tourism has for Tasmania
- 80 Labor will work in close partnership with the tourism industry to ensure that Tasmania is promoted interstate and overseas as a holiday destination.
- 81 Labor will provide ongoing investment in the development of new tourism infrastructure, services and experiences to support the future growth of tourism.
- 82 Labor believes that, as an island, affordable air and sea access to Tasmania is a critical element for the future growth and sustainability of the State's tourism industry. Therefore, Labor will work closely with the airlines and TT Line to stimulate travel and encourage improved services and capacity for people to visit Tasmania.
- 83 Labor supports carefully assessed, sustainable commercial development opportunities on Mount Wellington. Therefore, Labor will work with the Wellington Park Management Trust and Tasmanian Planning Commission to ensure that the Management Plan for Mount Wellington is based on best-practice planning principles which allow for the consideration of a range of commercial opportunities on the mountain.
- 84 Labor will work in partnership with the tourism industry to review and implement a joint State Government/Tourism Industry Strategic Plan for future tourism growth in Tasmania.
- 85 Labor is keenly aware of the opportunities that are available to the state's tourism and hospitality sectors through the Asian Century. Our state is an ideal destination for the many thousands of Asian visitors who travel to Australia each year. With visitor numbers from China growing by more than 40 per cent Labor will work to capitalise on this growth to benefit our tourism industry for many years to come.
- 86 Labor will take a whole of government approach to tourism by working with relevant peak and regional bodies to:
- ensure there is adequate infrastructure to enable our natural and cultural heritage assets to underpin the visitor experience;
  - invest in appropriate technology and other innovations to support the tourism industry;
  - ensure the provision of ongoing training for the industry;
  - ensure broad community and industry involvement in the Tasmania brand concepts; and
  - collect and analyse consumer feedback, and share this knowledge with the local tourism industry.

## Cultural Heritage and the Arts

### *Aboriginal affairs*

- 87 Labor believes the Tasmanian Aboriginal community has a right to self-determination within the broader Tasmanian community, as a people with a distinct cultural heritage.
- 88 Labor will ensure Tasmanian Aborigines exercise and enjoy the same rights and services to which all Tasmanians are entitled.
- 89 Labor will strengthen the protection of Aboriginal cultural heritage.
- 90 Labor will work in partnership with Aboriginal organisations that work for self-determination, self-help and self-reliance.
- 91 Labor will ensure Tasmanian Aborigines are represented on relevant authorities and consulted in government policy formulation and service delivery, with particular emphasis on improving Aboriginal education and health outcomes.
- 92 Labor will transfer vacant Crown Land to the Aboriginal community that is identified as economically, spiritually, culturally or historically important to the Aboriginal community.
- 93 Labor will support Aboriginal organisations in the management of land and in the development of employment and community projects.
- 94 Labor will integrate Aboriginal perspectives, traditional cultural practice and expertise into the management and use of natural resources.
- 95 Labor will investigate the provision of programs including arts administration and promotion for Aboriginal artists.
- 96 Labor will recognise Aboriginal cultural rights.
- 97 Labor will support the right of Aboriginal people to manage their land according to their own traditions and customs and to control access to their land.
- 98 Labor will consult with indigenous organisations over interpretation issues and encourage the provision, where relevant, of alternative interpretations to those designed by non-Aboriginal Tasmanians.

### *Aboriginal heritage*

- 99 Labor believes that the cultural heritage of Tasmania's original inhabitants must be preserved and will require the protection and management of Aboriginal heritage on both public and private land.
- 100 Labor believes that Aboriginal people are best able to manage, protect and preserve places of significance in their culture and heritage.
- 101 Labor will ensure that Aboriginal people are involved in the protection, identification and management of their own heritage.
- 102 Labor will provide incentives to private landowners to protect and preserve Aboriginal heritage.
- 103 Labor will work to develop in the Tasmanian community an understanding and appreciation of contemporary Aboriginal culture and heritage.

- 104 Labor believes that Tasmanian Aboriginal people are entitled to land on which they can practice their own traditions and customs.
- 105 Labor will ensure that Planning Schemes and Environmental Laws protect Aboriginal heritage and that Aboriginal heritage is afforded the same rights of protection as European heritage covered in current Schemes.
- 106 Labor will create a statutory Aboriginal Heritage Council and provide an integral role for the Aboriginal community in the protection and management of their heritage.
- 107 Labor will, in consultation and by agreement with the Aboriginal Community, reform the Aboriginal Relics Act 1975 to:
  - remove the arbitrary cut-off date of 1876 to include contemporary Aboriginal heritage
  - include all items of Aboriginal heritage
  - Provide an integral role for the Aboriginal community in the protection and management of their heritage
  - provide greater certainty and clarity for developers and landowners
  - increase penalties in line with the Historic Cultural Heritage Act and other States
  - increase fines to those who cause damage to Aboriginal Heritage to reflect fines contained in the Historical Cultural Heritage Act.

#### ***Ethnic affairs and multiculturalism***

- 108 Labor believes Tasmania is enriched by cultural diversity.
- 109 Labor promotes an inclusive society that treats all of its members with compassion and respect.
- 110 Labor will actively promote Tasmania as a place for settlement, to receive an increased share of migrants within the Federal Government's immigration program.
- 111 Labor will provide support for new and emerging communities to improve their settlement experiences.
- 112 Labor will ensure equal rights and access for all Tasmanians to Government services, including access to interpreter and translator services.
- 113 Labor will develop and implement strategies that address the social and health anxieties felt by many aged non-English speaking background people.
- 114 Labor will work with professional and trade accreditation organisations, educational institutions, unions, employer groups, representatives of the non-English speaking community and the Federal Government, to recognise appropriate overseas obtained qualifications.
- 115 Labor will increase the representation of ethnic communities on Government boards, committees, councils and authorities.
- 116 Labor will integrate multicultural experiences into the education curriculum and promote cultural diversity in the community through celebrations, events and festivals.

117 Labor will foster strategies to involve people of non-English speaking backgrounds across a broad range of social, cultural, economic and political activities.

#### *Art and heritage*

118 Labor believes the Arts and Heritage are important to the vibrant, diverse cultural life of all communities in Tasmania and are an integral part of Tasmania's sense of identity.

119 Labor believes that Tasmania's built and cultural heritage provide a vital insight into Tasmania's history.

120 Labor will provide incentives to Local Government to encourage the development of local history societies, heritage trails, and the management of cultural heritage resources.

121 Labor believes that Tasmania's extensive built heritage should be preserved in a way that maintains strong examples of our built environment.

122 Labor will engage local communities and user groups in the management of reserves with which they have a particular connection.

123 Labor will work with primary industries to ensure heritage sites are protected.

124 Labor will explore innovative means of raising funds for the preservation of built heritage.

125 Labor will make Tasmania's built and cultural heritage available for research purposes.

126 Labor will ensure that the interpretation of historic sites and artefacts takes due notice of the rights of people with disabilities.

127 Labor will ensure all sectors of the community are able to participate in a range of Arts experiences, including performing arts, visual arts, craft and design, literature and film, television and multimedia.

128 Labor will, through Arts Tasmania and its peer assessment panel system:

- identify and develop strategies for specific state based areas of need; and
- provide support to key cultural institutions.

129 Labor will promote national and international understanding and recognition of the Arts in Tasmania, nurture Tasmanian community pride in Tasmanian artists and collect, record, document and display their work.

130 Labor will encourage Arts and crafts industry development and promote the beneficial application of the Arts to industry, tourism and community life, including recreation and education.

131 Labor will promote artistic research development and appreciation within the education sector and increase opportunities for Arts training, including traineeships.

132 Labor will maximise job opportunities and career paths in the Arts and arts-related service sector.

133 Labor will, in collaboration with Federal and Local Government, provide appropriate facilities for presentation of the arts and assistance for the development, conservation and management of art collections state-wide.

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- 134 Labor will utilise local arts and crafts in government facilities and as gifts, awards and presentations wherever possible.
  - 135 Labor will encourage commissioning, development and performance of original work by Tasmanian performing artists and companies.
  - 136 Labor will encourage government agencies to utilise local creative development, crewing, shooting and post-production.
  - 137 Labor will encourage Local Government to develop policy and funding strategies for the Arts.
  - 138 Labor will protect Tasmania's historic wrecks and encourage and support owners to preserve and maintain sites of historic cultural significance.
  - 139 Labor will maintain the register of places of cultural significance to Tasmania and promote community appreciation of them.
  - 140 Labor will promote cultural heritage to tourists and in Tasmania's education curriculum.
  - 141 Labor will continue to support the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra.
  - 142 Labor will support and promote nationally, Tasmanian creative artists.
  - 143 Labor will ensure that the Tasmanian Museum and Art gallery actively supports, collects and exhibits the work of Tasmanian artists.

#### ***Cultural Diversity***

- 144 Labor believes in the importance of an independent media voice in Australia and affirms its commitment to a well-funded independent ABC and SBS
- 145 Labor support the production of local content where not only is Australia's voice heard but so is regional Australia
- 146 Tasmanian Labor will advocate for the national broadcaster to produce content by and with the Tasmanian community
- 147 Tasmanian Labor will advocate for regional radio services remaining regional and will speak out against any moves to replace them with an Australia wide version.

## CHAPTER 7: INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORT

### Infrastructure Strategy

- 1 Labor believes that Tasmania must take a long-term and strategic approach to the co-ordination, planning, investment, use and maintenance of our public infrastructure and private development.
- 2 Labor believes that Tasmania's infrastructure must facilitate and support economic development, provide for efficient transport and freight logistics and keep communities connected and safe.
- 3 Labor supports the Tasmania Infrastructure Strategy and its focus on an integrated approach to decision-making and Tasmania's future infrastructure priorities.
- 4 Labor recognises that well-planned and efficiently delivered infrastructure service provision is an important pre-condition to enhanced economic performance and that the Economic Development Plan is a key strategic guide in effectively and efficiently supporting the infrastructure needs of industry and our community.
- 5 Labor recognises the role of the Tasmanian Infrastructure Advisory Council in advising government on a long-term and strategic approach to Tasmania's future infrastructure.
- 6 Labor recognises the importance of engaging with local communities on the future infrastructure and transport needs to ensure solutions are tailored to each community's needs.

### Public Transport

- 7 Labor believes in providing a public transport system that is integrated, accessible, available, affordable, energy-efficient, user-friendly and comfortable for the entire community on road, light and heavy rail and sea.<sup>lix</sup>
- 8 Labor believes that the provision of public transport is a fundamental priority of government and an absolute right of the Tasmanian community.
- 9 Labor recognises the role of public transport is connecting communities to basic services and to each other.
- 10 Labor particularly recognises the role of a reliable, efficient, accessible and affordable public transport system to Tasmanians with limited transport options including seniors, students, people with a disability and those on low incomes as well as for those who choose to commute for work, recreation and to access services.
- 11 Labor believes that public transport concessions should be available to all Australians who meet the concession requirements, not restricted to only Tasmanian residents.<sup>lx</sup>
- 12 Labor recognises the important role of private hire vehicles and taxis and supports the increased use of Wheel Chair Accessible Taxis.
- 13 Labor believes that the quality of public transport should not diminish outside of urban areas and that people living in rural and regional communities should not be disadvantaged and should not receive a lower quality of public transport.<sup>lxi</sup>

- 14 Labor believes that long-term public transport planning should consider and support integrated road, light and heavy rail and sea infrastructure that can meet the needs of the broader Tasmanian community.
- 15 Labor supports expanding and upgrading Tasmania's heritage rail to preserve our heritage assets and to provide unique tourism experiences.
- 16 Labor supports an expansion of shared pathways and cycle ways to increase active transport linkages between communities and to enhance safety for cyclists.

### ***Freight Transport***

- 17 Labor supports an integrated freight network that supports economic development and efficient freight logistics.
- 18 Labor supports the retention of Tasmania's road, rail and ports in public ownership and recognises the strategic advantage of a fully integrated, publicly-owned transport and freight network.
- 19 Labor supports the ongoing investment and expansion in Tasmania's rail network and the critical role it plays in transporting bulk freight and enabling mining and primary industries.
- 20 Labor supports the investment in the Brighton Transport Hub and the strategic move towards a hub-and-spokes approach to freight logistics in Tasmania.
- 21 Labor recognises the importance of Tasmania's connections to interstate and international markets through its northern ports and supports a long-term approach to finding sustainable solutions to improve supply chain efficiency and costs for all Tasmania exporters.
- 22 Labor supports the retention of the Tasmanian Freight Equalisation Scheme and the Bass Strait Passenger Vehicle Equalisation Scheme.

### ***Transport Regulation, Safety and Reform***

- 23 Labor supports single national regulators for heavy vehicle, rail and maritime and recognises that this approach improves transport connectivity, increases industry efficiency and improves industry safety and compliance.
- 24 Labor supports an infrastructure charging system that directly invests revenue back into infrastructure providers and charges based on impact on infrastructure.
- 25 Labor supports the Tasmanian Road Safety Strategy and the National Road Safety Strategy.
- 26 Labor believes that the loss of any life while engaging in Tasmania's transport system is one too many and that government has a responsibility to provide safe transport systems through infrastructure investment and management.
- 27 Labor supports the Safe System principles approach to road investment and management and supports balancing infrastructure treatments and speed management measures to improve the overall safety and transport efficiency of the Tasmanian road network.
- 28 Labor recognises the role of the Road Safety Advisory Council and the role it plays in advising government on keeping all road-users safe.

### ***Airports and Air Services***

- 29 Labor supports reliable airport services to facilitate and encourage passenger and freight services.
- 30 Labor will ensure operators of our airports meet all policy guidelines and work to encourage growth of air freight passenger services and better utilisation of airport terminal facilities.
- 31 Labor will ensure that privately-operated airport and airport services will continue to upgrade facilities, maintain competitive pricing and strict environment and safety requirements.

### ***Digital Infrastructure***

- 32 Labor appreciates that high-speed broadband will revolutionise how we do business, deliver health care and educate our community.
- 33 Labor will deliver the National Broadband Network to every home, school, hospital and business in Tasmania with no installation costs.
- 34 Under Labor, Tasmania will be first to have total NBN coverage of high-speed broadband by the end of 2015 - five years ahead of any other Australian state.
- 35 Labor supports innovative uses of the NBN such as the Sense-T project, the world's first economy-wide intelligent sensor network that will combine real-time and historical data to give decision makers more information and make better decisions.
- 36 Labor supports the creation of digital hubs across the state to ensure all Tasmanians have the opportunity to learn how to utilise the NBN.

### ***Planning***

- 37 Labor believes that the Government's approach to planning and development should seek to balance and maximise economic, social and environmental outcomes.
- 38 Labor believes that the expansion of Tasmania's built environment must be planned carefully so that it is supported by adequate and appropriate infrastructure.
- 39 Labor believes that built industrial developments are an important contributor to Tasmania's economy and productivity.
- 40 Labor believes that Aboriginal, historical and ongoing cultural values are important in land management planning.
- 41 Labor believes that planning should seek to eliminate social isolation, tackle housing, transport and utilities affordability issues and reduce pollution.
- 42 Labor will continue to reform the planning system, including by developing and implementing a clear and consistent framework and approach for Local Government planning schemes that focuses on providing common provisions and documentation, and streamlining assessment processes, to minimise compliance costs for builders, developers and consumers.
- 43 Labor recognises that while planning consistency, clarity and certainty are required, they must be provided in a way that respects and reflects regional differences and the genuine needs and interests of local communities.

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- 44 Labor will continue to support the development and implementation of regional planning strategies, and the Hobart Capital City Plan, in conjunction with relevant local councils.
  - 45 Labor will have a comprehensive assessment process for projects of state significance.
  - 46 Labor will assess crown land to determine its best use.
  - 47 Labor will work with local councils with the aim of ensuring that development proposals are considered within specific, realistic and commercially acceptable timeframes. Labor will continue to deliver planning assessment and appeal times for development proposals that are better than most if not all other States.
  - 48 Labor will allow all interested members of the public a reasonable opportunity to comment on planning and development schemes and proposals.

## NOTES

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i As amended by Australian Young Labor, State Conference, August 2012

ii As amended by Mt Stuart Branch, State Conference 2012

iii Australian Young Labor, State Conference, August 2012

iv State Conference, 2008.

v HACSU, State Conference, August 2012

vi Kingborough Branch, State Conference, August 2012

vii As amended by Parliamentary Labor Party, State Conference, August 2012

viii State Government Employment and Training Policy: Labor notes the review of this valuable policy by Skills Tasmania and will ensure that reviewed policy includes the requirement for “mandatory on site compliance monitoring”; and will ensure that the mandatory requirement for compliance is communicated to all Tasmanian builders to ensure that a tendering advantage is not gained by simply ignoring training requirements. Labor will also ensure that built into this policy is an annual reporting process to the Building and Construction Industry Council for information purposes.

ix As part of creating an infrastructure to promote the capacity for Tasmanian industry to engage in fair business practices, the State Labor Government will introduce a Building and Construction Industry Security of Payment Act. Unless there is any indication that the following provisions are not sound, the Act will:

allow claimants to secure payment on account inexpensively and speedily, without the need for expensive use of lawyers, court hearings, witnesses, cross examinations and all that is usually involved in arbitration or litigation;

have application to all industry players;

ensure that any person who undertakes to carry out construction work (or who undertakes to supply related goods and services) under a construction contract is entitled to receive, and is able to recover, progress payments in relation to the carrying out of that work and the supplying of those goods and services;

include a role for the Tasmanian Industrial Commission as the adjudication body; and

be informed by the Building and Construction Industry Council State of the Industry Report for 2006.

x Privatisation – Labor opposes the privatisation of any State Owned Company (SOC) or Government Business Enterprise (GBE) unless there are demonstrable benefits to the broad Tasmanian economy, including fiscal, employment, tourism, social and environmental considerations. More particularly, Labor is opposed to the privatisation of any publicly owned power infrastructure with the exception of the Tamar Valley Power Station and whole heartedly supports the past Bacon Labor Government’s promise to never sell the Hydro and the “poles and wires”. As past practice in Australia has shown, any privatisation of power infrastructure would see wholesale job losses and a severe drop in electricity services, reliability and upkeep of infrastructure. The 2008 Tasmanian Labor Conference requested the State Labor Government agree that an outcome such as this would be disastrous for Tasmania; and confirmed that the State Government would not for any reason sell Tasmania’s publicly owned power infrastructure companies, Hydro Tasmania or Transend Networks Pty Ltd.

xi AMWU, State Conference, August 2012

xii Glenorchy, State Conference, August 2012

xiii As amended by the Tamar Branch and Australian Young Labor, State Conference, August 2012

xiv North West Central Policy Branch and Mt Stuart Branch, State Conference, August 2012

xv Glenorchy Branch, State Conference, August 2012

xvi North West Central Policy Branch, State Conference, August 2012

xvii Glenorchy Branch, State Conference, August 2012

xviii AMWU and Mt Stuart Branch, State Conference, August 2012

xix Battery Point Branch and Australian Young Labor, State Conference, August 2012

xx Australian Young Labor, State Conference, August 2012

xxi Battery Point Branch, State Conference, August 2012

xxii Battery Point Branch and AYL, State Conference, August 2012

xxiii Battery Point Branch and United Voice, State Conference, August 2012. This motion was specific to the hospitality industry but has been included in the platform in a more general form.

xxiv New Town Branch, State Conference, August 2012

xxv AMWU, State Conference, August 2012

xxvi HACSU, State Conference, August 2012

xxvii Lenah Valley Branch Motion

This conference notes that workers in the Health and Community Services sectors often work for more than one employer and change employers within the industries. This results in many workers in the Health & Community Services industries missing out on long service leave.

This conference calls upon the Government to implement a portable long service leave scheme similar to that which exists in the building and construction industry. This scheme would mean that workers long service leave accruals would be 'banked' by each employer they work for and that that entitlement is then accessible after the relevant period of service.

In order to advance this issue, this Conference calls upon the relevant Ministers to establish an Advisory Committee consisting of Government, Union and Employer representatives and that this Committee be resourced to produce recommendations to the Minister in a timely manner.

This Conference also notes that a similar resolution to this has been passed at a previous ALP State Conference and the Government has neither acted on that resolution nor provided a report to subsequent conferences on why the resolution had not been acted on.

xxviii State Parliamentary Labor Party, State Conference, August 2012

xxix AMWU, State Conference, August 2012

xxx North West Central Policy Branch, State Conference, August 2012

xxxi AMWU, State Conference, August 2012

xxxii United Voice, State Conference, August 2012

xxxiii United Voice, State Conference, August 2012

xxxiv AMWU, State Conference, August 2012

xxxv United Voice, State Conference, August 2012

xxxvi AMWU, State Conference, August 2012

xxxvii A discussion paper will be prepared on the need for broad-based employment incentives to be developed for Tasmania in order to attract and retain workers. It will place particular emphasis on the following issues:

- parity with interstate salaries (where possible in the current global economic crisis);
- the role of productivity in determining public sector salaries;
- the need for portable employment entitlements such as superannuation and long service leave;
- legislative amendments to enable salary packaging and salary sacrifice; and
- the role of automatic, legislated linkages for certain occupations.

The relevant Minister/s will address State Conference in 2010 on the contents of the discussion paper and any implementation plans the Minister has.

xxxviii As amended by North West Central Policy Branch, State Conference, August 2012

xxxix AMWU, State Conference, August 2012

xl State Parliamentary Labor Party and New Town Branch, State Conference, August 2012

xli New Town Branch, State Conference, August 2012

xlvi State Conference called on the Tasmanian Government to introduce a Charter of Rights and Tasmanian Human Rights Commissioner to further protect human rights in Tasmania.

xlvi Custodial Workers – Conference noted that that:

1. Correctional Officers look after a vast number of people who do not want to be in prison, some prisoners are anti-social, violent and unpredictable towards correctional officers;
2. It is internationally recognised that rehabilitation services, both within prisons and afterwards, have a beneficial impact on reducing recidivism;
3. Improving the living standards through better education and employment opportunities also has a beneficial impact on whether people enter a life of crime.
4. The management of rehabilitation services within prisons creates a variety of issues including the secure management on inmates and the protection of correctional staff.

Therefore Conference:

Urged the State Government to take all possible steps to increase and where necessary, improve the quality, range and delivery of in prison rehabilitation services recognising that this is in the best interests of society as a whole; and Congratulated Correctional Officers on the high quality of their work in the difficult circumstances they work in.

xlvii AMWU, State Conference, August 2012

xlviii Tamar Branch, State Conference, August 2012

xlvix Tamar Branch, State Conference, August 2012

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xlviii Australian Young Labor, State Conference, August 2012

xlix Australian Young Labor, State Conference, August 2012

I Tamar Branch, State Conference, August 2012

li South Hobart Branch, State Conference, August 2012

lii Lenah Valley Branch Motion

It is with extreme concern that this conference notes the impact of the State Budget handed down in June and the inevitable loss of services as a result of slashing \$100m in funding from health in 2011-2012 and a further \$50m over the forward estimates. This Conference calls on the State Government to restore funding necessary to maintain adequate and quality of health services to the Tasmanian community and to work constructively with unions to identify areas of efficiencies and savings to address budget pressures.

liii In line with Burnie City Branch Motion

The Burnie City Branch congratulates the State Labor Government for the buyback of the North West Regional Hospital into public ownership. This buy back has meant the Government can proceed with developments including the North West Cancer Centre.

liv From Newstead Branch Motion

Palliative Care is an essential component of a contemporary health care system. Conference notes the document "Health System Reform and Care and at the End of Life: A Guidance Document" published by Palliative Care Australia and encourages the Tasmanian Government to contribute to work with the Australian Government to improve the delivery of palliative care services across all levels of health care.

lv West Hobart Branch Motion

Labor believes in the rights of women to make decisions regarding their bodies, fertility and reproductive rights. The fact that termination of pregnancy sits within the Criminal Code potentially criminalises Tasmanian women and medical practitioners, and also has the effect of restricting access to vital health services.

This has the potential to have the greatest impact on the most vulnerable and disadvantaged women, particularly young women.

Conference calls on the State Government to remove pregnancy termination from the Criminal Code and further calls for equitable, accessible and legal terminations to be available to women through Tasmanian Health Services.

lvi Newstead Branch Motion

That this conference recognises the importance of family support services in protecting our most vulnerable and helping to build strong communities. Recognises that the instance of babies being abandoned in Tasmania, and nationally is very rare.

Welcomes the State Government focus on early support programs for parents to keep families together; and

Acknowledges that this approach ensures maximum resources being made available before situations reach crisis point.

lvii Bellerive Howrah branch motion

Conference supports the "Agenda for Children and Young People" which sets out a 10 year plan with the key themes of nurturing, educating and protecting our children. Conference commends the Agenda in particular in that it is based on the principles of cross-agency co-operation.

lviii West Hobart Branch Motion

lix This recognises the Newtown Branch motion moved at the 2012 ALP Tasmanian Conference that called for expanded light rail services in Southern Tasmania.

lx This recognises the Tasmanian Young Labor motion passed at the 2012 ALP Tasmanian Conference that called for all Australian interstate student concessions to be recognised for Tasmanian public transport.

lxi This recognises the Bridgewater / Brighton Branch motion passed at the 2012 ALP Tasmanian Conference that called for better public transport to the Brighton municipality.