

Tasmanian Youth Parliament 2008

Youth Motion

That the Tasmanian Youth Parliament 2008

Economics

1. Believes that the Bell Bay Pulp Mill is a potentially dangerous step for Tasmania, mainly due to potential negative effects on the environment, impact on neighbouring business and residential areas as well as Tasmania's tourism image.
2. Urges the Federal government to increase their foreign aid commitment to 0.7 per cent of GNI in line with existing UN recommendations.
3. Believes that there should be greater funding directed to the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, particularly aimed at bringing new works from interstate and overseas to widen Tasmanians' perspective and draw visitors to the state.
4. Encourages the Federal government to continue broadening and deepening free trade relationships with other nations where there are no significant and negative political or social conflicts with those nations.
5. Desires an increase in support for farmers who are affected by drought that include payments for voluntary relocation, crop substitution and mortgage assistance.
6. Congratulates the Tasmanian government for committing to the development of more affordable housing as an alternative to attempting to manage the existing supply through rent controls and rent assistance payments.
7. Expresses concern at the high cost of housing and the pressure this places on young people trying to become independent. Potential solutions such as releasing government land and continuing to provide financial assistance to first time home owners should be considered.
8. Expresses concern at the lack of emergency housing for the homeless, especially young people.
9. Believes that pensions should be raised in order to reflect higher costs of living.
10. Expresses concern over the negative effects of delays in bringing Tasmania up to national and international standards in the area of Broadband access and speed.
11. Has great scepticism of the efficacy of 'Fuel Watch' and 'Grocery Watch' in providing information to consumers and encouraging competition.

Education

12. Believes there should be a compulsory second language taught at all educational institutions until the end of Grade 10.
13. Believes that Level 1 first aid should be made compulsory in secondary education.
14. Is concerned about the way Tasmania Tomorrow was communicated to the affected community groups.
15. Strongly urges the government to increase the consultation with the wider community, both before and during a reform of the education system.

16. Encourages a more flexible approach to physical education in secondary school including the possibility of private partnership, exemplified by certain schools outsourcing physical education to local gymnasias.
17. Strongly emphasise the need for libraries in all educational institutions regardless of type.
18. Recognises that a nationally uniform system of marking and qualifications is essential.
19. Strongly supports the idea of a national curriculum.
20. Opposes the proposal for the Tasmania Tomorrow reforms.
21. Believes that the mandatory age for participating in public schooling should be increased to completing Grade 12.
22. Expresses concern at the inequitable funding process for public and private schools resulting in private schools unfairly benefiting.
23. Affirms that there should be no disparity between funding for schools based on the performance of the students.
24. Expresses concern over the lack of specialised and qualified teachers.
25. Strongly condemns any scholarships or bursaries that are awarded or prioritised on the basis of race.
26. Approves of the emphasis given to teaching of cultural aboriginal history in secondary schools.
27. Believes that school funding should be based on proportional size and capacity requirements.

Environment

28. Condemns the proposed Bell Bay Pulp Mill, particularly in light of the questionable relationship between Gunns and the Tasmanian Government.
29. Supports the idea of a pulp mill in Tasmania and encourages research on sustainable mills such as those in Sweden and Finland.
30. Supports the mandatory use of closed loop water systems and chlorine-free technology in any pulp mills built in Tasmania.
31. Urges the Government to increase climate change reduction measures, through such systems as implementing a 40% carbon dioxide emission reduction target by 2020.
32. Commends the Government for the Garnaut report, but feels the carbon emission reduction targets proposed do not go far enough towards addressing the problem of climate change.
33. Commends the Government for current protection measures of old growth forests, but urges the allocation of protected forest be substantially increased.
34. Believes that a further ten per cent of Tasmanian forests should be protected, in order to maintain 50 per cent of state forests in conservation.
35. Condemns the logging of old-growth forests.
36. Expresses concern about the continuing unsustainable logging practises in Tasmania.
37. Supports moves to convert bus fleets and other public transport systems to LPG and other alternative fuels.
38. Urges the Government to invest in public transport systems by means of increasing and improving currently available services, in particular the Metro bus service.
39. Urges government to provide subsidies to individuals for public transport to decrease personal financial pressure and give greater incentive to utilise these services.

40. Encourages government to provide further individualised assistance to those investing in and establishing organic farming practices.
41. Supports investigation into offshore crops and power operations, in light of decreasing available pasture space.
42. Urges the government to establish environmental education forums, and support those already in operation, in order to increase public awareness of environmental issues.
43. Commends the greater availability of current environmental information in the media, and urge the government to assist those publications that emphasise this.
44. Commends the greater availability of publications outlining household environmental tips and suggestions, particularly those supported by government.
45. Believes businesses should be subsidised to establish localised alternative energy systems.
46. Urges the Government to move toward and invest in sustainable energy options, with the aim of eventually replacing current, unsustainable energy sources such as coal.
47. Believes agricultural planning should be addressed at a state level.
48. Urges the Government to invest in research into sustainable agricultural practices.
49. Commends the Tasmanian Government's efforts to create awareness on and promote research into the facial tumours plaguing the Tasmanian Devil populations.
50. Supports State Government initiatives to eradicate the fox in Tasmania, and believe these actions should be continued.
51. Urges the Government to provide a 5¢ refund for PET bottles and other recyclables, as implemented in South Australia.
52. Believes environmental education programs should be compulsory throughout the primary and secondary school system.
53. Commends government movement towards a carbon trading scheme in Australia.
54. Encourages the Australian federal government to take a lead in international environmental issues, regardless of the apathy of other nations.
55. Believes a compulsory tax should be placed on the use of plastic bags.
56. Supports moves in areas such as Coles Bay to ban the use of plastic bags completely, and believe this should be extended to the whole of Tasmania.
57. Rejects the implementation of nuclear energy as a viable option in Australia, and believes other alternatives such as solar, wind and geothermal power should take precedence.
58. Condemns the Australian Government's moves to reduce solar panel subsidies, and strongly urges them to reinstate and increase previous efforts.
59. Encourages state governments to utilise the sustainable energy resources applicable and appropriate in the particular area.
60. Believes the corporate sector should be subject to mandatory energy use assessments, in order to provide information about energy use, such as that of stand-by energy loss, and encourage the reduction in energy use.
61. Recommends that the Government provide further support for households in converting to natural gas.
62. Expresses concern about the lack of action on climate change considering the extensive media coverage.
63. Commends the government on its recent environmentalist actions to prevent whaling through the creation and maintenance of the Australian Whaling Sanctuary.
64. Commends the government on its ratification of the Kyoto Protocol.

65. Urges the government to increase its commitment to the MDGs.

Health

66. Encourages more incentives to attract and encourage more specialised health professionals.

67. Is concerned about the lack of health professionals in Tasmania and the problems related to attracting them.

68. Urges the government to more effectively consult with the health sector in regard to funding.

69. Would like to see more education campaigns regarding the health problems associated with tobacco smoking.

70. Supports the implementation of further smoke-free public areas.

71. Encourages further funding and support for nurses.

72. Supports further educational measures directed at combating obesity.

73. Supports healthy food options in school canteens and encourages that incentives be given to schools that supply such options.

74. Urges the government to stress the importance of healthy living choices, with a focus on information being available to parents.

75. Commends schools that have made RSA and First Aid certificate training available, and encourages other educational institutions to implement measures to the same effect.

76. Supports drug and alcohol harm minimisation programs such as "Save-a-Mate".

77. Commends existing youth health services, and supports more public awareness of such services.

78. Supports condom dispensers in all licensed venues as a mandatory part of the licensing process.

79. Encourages more tampon and sanitary pad dispensers for toilets in licensed venues.

80. Urges the government to place a ban on poker machines.

81. Supports initiatives to increase the affordability and accessibility of dental care to those without private health insurance, emphasising the absence of dental care provisions under Medicare.

82. Commends "Close the Gap" and other programmes aimed at increasing life expectancy in indigenous populations.

83. Commends the rural health scholarship programme, and believes that an extension of this programme would help alleviate staff shortages in rural medical centres.

84. Urges the implementation of telephone and internet health services, particularly for rural people.

85. Urges the government to commit more funding to air doctors and air ambulances.

86. Condemns the lack of support and awareness of people suffering mental health problems.

87. Commends organisations such as Beyond Blue and emphasises the need for an increase of similar initiatives.

88. Condemns, in the strongest terms, abuse in the psychiatric health sector.

89. Encourages the development of more full time care centres for people suffering from mental health issues.

90. Supports the Mental Health Tribunal.

91. Urges the government to commit more funding to specialty schools catering to students with mental disabilities.
92. Encourages an increase in incentives for businesses which employ mentally disabled peoples.
93. Supports the motivation behind the recent tax increases on certain alcoholic beverages, but is convinced that tax increases are not an effective solution to the problem of binge drinking in Australia.
94. Believes that responsible alcohol consumption should not be specifically targeted towards youth.
95. Encourages education on the negative health impacts of binge drinking.
96. Supports increases in education relating to drug awareness.
97. Emphasises the importance of accessible legal help for abuse victims.
98. Supports the legalisation of euthanasia only in cases where the patient has previously given informed consent prior to the procedure taking place.
99. Condemns the lack of full time care facilities for the terminally ill.
100. Supports the development of the Royal Hobart Hospital at a new location but emphasises the need for facilities remain at the current location.
101. Calls for a decrease in elective surgery at Launceston General Hospital and north-west coast regional hospitals, in conjunction with an increase in the capacity for elective surgery at the Royal Hobart Hospital.
102. Supports legislation seeking to restrict junk food advertising during children's programs.
103. Emphasises the need for more support for families caring for those with mental health issues.
104. Strongly urges the implementation of education programmes in schools regarding blood and organ donation.
105. Encourages the expansion of existing blood donation services with the addition of travelling blood donation services.
106. Calls for a move towards the establishment of an opt-out organ donation registry.
107. Considers accessible abortions to be a fundamental right of women.
108. Promotes awareness on the importance of regular checks on gender specific diseases such as breast and prostate cancer.
109. Supports the belief that young people should be able to obtain family planning advice without parental knowledge.
110. Condemns the lack of wheelchair access in schools.
111. Requests a reconsideration of the legislation relating to restrictions on blood donations.
112. Supports further research into the possibility of harmful radiation being emitted from consumer products and other potential causes of cancer.
113. Supports fat and carbohydrate regulations on fast food retailers.
114. Emphasises the need for mandatory brain scans prior to the diagnosis of ADHD and similar conditions.
115. Supports an increase in the range of medication available on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme.
116. Supports an increase in the availability of after hours health services.
117. Supports further research into the causes and possible treatment of chronic fatigue and similar conditions.

Society, Culture and Government

118. Congratulates the Federal Government on the Indigenous Apology.
119. Commends the withdrawal of the intervention.
120. Is concerned by the lack of health and welfare services available in Indigenous communities.
121. Recommends access to interpreters for migrants and refugees in hospitals to ensure appropriate care.
122. Condemns the citizenship test.
123. Recommends that any citizenship test not include questions on history.
124. Recommends that more support be provided for migrants and refugees to learn English.
125. Supports the campaign to make Australia a republic.
126. Condemns the practice of extraordinary rendition, and emphasises its negative effects.
127. Calls upon the Australian Government to take further action to meet the Millennium Development Goals.
128. Calls upon the Australian Government to create a statutory charter of human rights.
129. Applauds laws requiring a certain percentage of airtime being given to Australian content.
130. Applauds the Government's moves to promote Indigenous Australian television content.
131. Recommends that more funding be given to Australian film industries.
132. Recommends that more funding be given to television programmes targeted towards children.
133. Recommends that sound volume of advertisements be normalised to the volume of the programme during which the advertisement is screened.
134. Urges the Australian and Tasmanian governments to provide more support for local artists.
135. Believes that concessions should be normalised between government welfare agencies.