

MEDIA RELEASE

Save Ralphps Bay Inc.

www.SaveRalphpsBay.org

01 November 2004

STATE ALP CONFERENCE REJECTS UNIVERSITY BRANCH MOTION SUPPORTING WALKER CORP

Save Ralphps Bay Inc. applauds the Tasmanian State ALP for its overwhelming rejection of a motion supporting the Walker Corp proposal for the Ralphps Bay Conservation Area.

At the ALP state conference in Launceston on Sunday, the University Branch(Launceston) of the ALP proposed "motion #25" which rejected the idea that the development, a Queensland style canal estate to be built on the site of the Ralphps Bay conservation area, should be stopped.

In "motion #25" the University Branch(Launceston) of the ALP stated that the Walker development would "reduce the vulnerability of waterbirds to domestic animals" and used, in part, such statements to justify its position. The University Branch(Launceston) of the ALP went even further and claimed that community opposition to the Walker Corp plan was restricted to "some residents of Lauderdale, particularly the Save Ralphps Bay lobby group".

In acknowledgment of the grievous environmental and social consequences of the proposed development, and the strong community opposition, there was no support for "motion #25" on the conference floor. Tasmanian ALP delegates delivered a resounding rejection of the motion - only the two delegates who moved and seconded "motion #25" spoke in support of the Walker Corp proposal.

It is a matter of concern to Save Ralphps Bay Inc. that, 219kms removed from Lauderdale, the University Branch(Launceston) of the ALP felt fit to put forward such ill-informed and fallacious judgments based on absurd, inaccurate, and unsubstantiated claims. "Motion #25" was spawned by Mr. Daniel Hulme, The President of Australian Young Labor in Tasmania, and Save Ralphps Bay Inc. questions whether the future of the Tasmanian Labor Party should rest in the hands of such individuals.

Save Ralphps Bay Inc. is relieved this motion was given the treatment it deserves. It is our continued hope that the Tasmanian Parliamentary Labor Party will follow the clear wishes of its state membership and reject the Walker plan before it enters the formal planning system.

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