



ENVIRONMENT
TASMANIA INC

Response to Environment Tasmania and Save

Ralphs Bay Inc. Questionnaire

Wendy Heatley

Dear Phill and Bill,

Thank you for organising this questionnaire. It is very important for Pembroke voters to know where candidates stand on the important issue of Ralphs' Bay. Here are my responses to the questionnaire:

1. Do you, personally, support Walker Corporation's "Lauderdale Quay" development concept, currently before the Resource Planning and Development Commission?

No – canal housing estates have no place on Tasmania's coastline

2. If elected to the Upper house seat of Pembroke, and in the event of the Resource Planning and Development Commission recommending approval of "Lauderdale Quay" how do you intend to vote on the development?

I would vote in support of protecting the Ralphs Bay Conservation Area and against this inappropriate plan

3. If elected to the Upper House seat of Pembroke, and in the event of the Resource Planning and Development Commission recommending rejection of "Lauderdale Quay", how do you intend to vote on the development?

As above - Vote in support of protecting the Ralphs Bay Conservation Area and against this inappropriate plan

4. Would you support a Legislative Council Committee to investigate the prohibition of canal estates in Tasmania, in keeping with prohibiting policy in New South Wales and Victoria?

Yes – although given recent comments from the State Architect, who has come from New South Wales, the Greens do not believe it is necessary to have a Committee inquiry as there is sufficient national evidence to support an immediate legislative ban.

5. Would you vote in favour of a Bill prohibiting canal estate developments in Tasmania if reintroduced to Parliament, and the subsequent updating of the Tasmanian State Coastal Policy to reflect such a decision?

Yes.

We also request comment on the following:

6. What measures would you see put in place to protect coastal settlements and future coastal development from climate change? (See A)

The key point here is a comprehensive and enforceable State Coastal Policy. Also a properly resourced and staffed EPA and other measures outlined in the reference document. At a national level, we also need to put in place appropriate targets and strategies to address climate change (refer Greens national policy).

7. In what circumstances would you consider it appropriate for a Tasmanian Protected Area listing to be revoked? (see B)

The only situation I could envisage is where the protected area is sold to a conservation organisation and equivalent protection mechanisms are put in place to ensure the area remains protected (e.g. covenant). A Protected Area listing is just that and should be respected as such for current and future generations.

8. Under what circumstances would you consider it appropriate for the State government to revoke a Crown land listing for sale of the land to a private developer?

Again, there would be very limited circumstances, such as the Crown land should not have any reservation or protection status or listing, (this happens far too often with the revocation of forest reserve status!) If there is no such listings/status, then the sale should be through a transparent tender process, and the community should also be able to put in an offer to purchase.

9. What is your experience of the local community of Ralphs Bay and the dispute surrounding Walker Corporation's development proposals for the area?

I have been supportive of the Save Ralph's campaign from the early days of the first proposal and have attended public meetings. I have been a member of Save Ralphs Bay over most of the period. Our family regularly visits the area and we know many of the people involved in Save Ralphs Bay through personal contacts and the Greens.

My husband and my eldest son (aged 14) are keen wind surfers who wind surf in Ralphs Bay as one of the best locations for wind surfing in Tasmania when the wind is in the right direction. It was especially valuable when they were learning as it one of the few places with a large area of shallow water that is close to Hobart. My youngest son (aged 7) is also learning to windsurf.

My husband and I own an investment property at South Arm which looks out to the lower part of Ralphs Bay. This low lying area adjoining the golf course is very vulnerable to sea level rises and changes in the environment.

10. What do you consider to be Tasmania's unique "brand" and appeal to tourists and new residents?

For any Brand to maintain its value it must be considered genuine – a key component of Tasmania's brand is being recognized as 'clean, green and clever'

(the Walkers' plan is none of these!) and the protection of the natural environment.

The appeal to tourists and new residents is also a unique lifestyle, where life is still at a human and community scale. Where we differentiate ourselves by quality and value-adding rather than trying to duplicate other cities. I.e. people come here to experience a relatively untouched natural environment, which is becoming increasingly rare amongst over-developed and crowded areas – such as the marina style developments of the Gold Coast!

Regards,

Wendy Heatley,

Endorsed Greens Candidate for Pembroke