

Christine Milne
Vote Environment Rally 2021
Hobart

I am here as a passionate climate and environmental activist of the past thirty years to say the Tasmanian Government's totally flawed energy extravaganza, Project Marinus and Battery of the Nation is a DUD.

D is for Disaster for Biodiversity and Climate. These are two sides of the same coin. You cannot destroy one to deliver the other and say it is Green. It is Greed.

You cannot destroy the habitat of migratory birds, wetlands and ecosystems at Robbins Island, cut swathes through forests, open them to invasive species, industrialise the North and the Central Plateau and say it is climate friendly.

This is the UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration, not ecosystem destruction. You need to restore ecosystems to build resilience in the face of global warming.

U is for Unnecessary. The same people who tore down the carbon price, smash forests and send greenhouse gases spewing to atmosphere are now saying that we have to sacrifice the Tasmanian environment to bring down emissions on the mainland. Why would you believe them? It is a bald faced lie. It is greenwash.

It shows their ignorance of the technological breakthroughs in the renewable energy revolution.

The mainland does not need Tasmanian renewable energy to transition to 100% renewable energy. Neither does it need it for energy storage to balance the NEM. Batteries have leapfrogged Tas Hydro Dams. They are smaller, more flexible, cheaper and able to be deployed in distributed systems. Hydro has missed the boat.

D is for debt. It is not just me saying that these projects are not economically viable, the Victorian Energy Policy Centre's Bruce Mountain says it and Goanna Energy Marc White says it. But the Liberal Party's God, the market is also saying it. There is zero, zilch interest from the private sector in investing in Marinus. Who will pay the \$7.1 billion?

We will. Tasmanians energy bills will increase. We know because we are already subsidising every new wind farm, Granville Harbour, Cattle Hill, for hundreds of millions of dollars. Hydro doesn't want to do it so is being forced by the Liberal Government to sign onerous contracts to buy energy at an inflated price and take on the debt themselves. It is the same old Liberals 'Privatise the Profits and Socialise the costs' way of promoting 'development at any cost'!

From Wesley Vale pulp mill to Gunns, to poker machines, to fish farms same old, same old, secret deals, cash subsidies, environmental exemptions, big business mates.

As to 'Jobs and Growth' that is what Marinus PR is promising the mainland not the locals. At Cattle Hill and Granville Harbour, it was a FIFO workforce, with 1 local job.

Tasmania can be a world leader in this UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration. We can address both the global warming and biodiversity emergencies. We can electrify transport, we can electrify agriculture, we can restore Lake Pedder and our forests. We can be world class in everything from restoration agriculture to regenerative tourism.

We have one message for Premier Gutwein: Get serious about the Climate and Biodiversity Emergencies. Abandon the DUD Marinus project now.



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Amelie Hudspeth
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Hi everyone,
I'm Amelie and it's a huge privilege to be speaking here today with these incredible people on behalf of many of lutruwita Tasmania's young people.

I too would like to acknowledge the muwinina people of this land and the Palawa peoples ongoing connection to and fight for country. I acknowledge elders past present and emerging and all indigenous people here today. There are still many voices to be heard in this space and it is vital that we understand that real climate and environmental justice does not come without First Nations justice.

This election is only a week away! It gives us a great chance to put environmental issues at the top of the list for the next three years. Please take actions like those suggested today. It's fast becoming too late to reverse many of the impacts we are having on our island and earth's environment, but it is your vote that can help to change this.

It is so important that the environment is at the forefront of all politicians' minds in this house behind us because it is fast becoming too late which does not mean other issues are left behind, but if we vote to change our climate and environmental policies, other positive outcomes will follow.

We cannot solve any of these problems without first protecting our environment.

A month ago, I had the opportunity to run in the Bob Brown Foundation's takayna trail event in the north west. My eyes were opened again to the value and beauty of the natural wilderness we have on our back door step. When I visited the Pieman forest defenders blockade, my eyes were opened even wider to the destruction of old growth logging -desimating habitat for precious endangered species and ruining hopes of for our future environment.

We are all seeing and feeling the effects of deforestation, fossil fuel extraction and poor policies which continue to fail us. We watch as those who represent our country and our future fail to do enough to keep us from climate and environmental collapse.

We are NOT on track to meet our Paris Climate agreement targets from 2015, and just this week as countries like America stepped up with a commitment to half their emissions by 2030, Australia failed to up our game. While we only emit 2% of global emissions 170 countries emit less than us. Together these less than 2% countries account for over 40% of all global emissions.

This election is a chance to change this. It's a chance to stand up and vote for the futures of young people on this island who are watching us determine their future. Let's stand up for them.

Next weekend, I ask you to vote on behalf of people like my friends who are missing out on voting by a matter of days or weeks.

Vote for those who can't yet.
Vote for those who are relying on us to determine their future.
From young people all across this island, vote for our environment!

Nala Mansell
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Ya pulingina, mina Nala Mansell, mina palawa luna rrala, mina tunapri nika milaythina palawa milaythina manta manta, raitji ningina milaythina mana- warana kani- ningina mina milaythina-tu palawa

Hey, I'm Nala Mansell from the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre. I'm a proud palawa woman, and I'd like to acknowledge that the land we meet on here today.... is not, in fact Aboriginal land. It once was; well for at least 60,000 years, but as a result of invasion, murder, rape and theft committed against my people-it is now owned by the crown and our elected leaders, in this building behind me; still refuse to give it back. So I invite you all to join in our 220 year old campaign-for its return to its original owners, the palawa people of lutruwita.

Ever since the beginning of time, my people have owned, managed, cared for and lived in harmony with this island, its lands, and waterways. Nations existed in this place well before the white one was introduced. We had our own laws, our own political and education systems, we had no poverty and no pollution- we were a happy, healthy and sovereign people. We nourished and protected our land and culture for future generations.

In less than 2 generations after the arrival of raitji, the extinction of entire species was well underway. Seals, whales, small mammals, birds and of course trees, plants, moss, insects - the list goes on. My people were almost part of that long list of extinctions. But our endurance, adaptability and fighting spirit ensured our survival in the face of overwhelming threats.

It's the same fighting spirit that the whole of this State, the whole of this country, and indeed the world, needs right now if we are to leave a healthy planet for future generations!

Short term jobs is an easy catch cry for short election cycles but it's the long term vision that has seen Palawa thrive, and it's the only chance for the environment that sustains us all.

This land, and everything in it is the legacy given to me and other palawa by our old people, and with that legacy comes a great responsibility. But this responsibility is not just for Aboriginal people; it's for everyone who now calls lutruwita their home!

A responsibility to commit to land return, by electing political leaders who have the guts to acknowledge the wrongs of the past and to returning just some of our stolen lands.

A responsibility to ensure the protection of ancient irreplaceable Aboriginal heritage such as the world renowned Aboriginal heritage sites along the west coast of Tasmania in Takayna - by voting for politicians who will rule out opening any further tracks in the Arthur Pieman Conservation Area.

A responsibility to ensure kunanyi is not desecrated by the construction of a cable car that all Tasmanians will end up paying for when the high winds and freezing temperatures deter the tourists so it's an economic failure just like most of the mines that are left as eyesores around our lands when the entrepreneurs go bust.

The responsibility to ensure that the Aboriginal ancient midden sites, the hut depressions, the seal hides, the stone tools, and the stories of the lives of my people are not destroyed.

I have a duty to my ancestors and you have a duty to my ancestors who took care of this island for such a long time.

The return of our land to our community ownership has stalled for far too long. We know Aboriginal community ownership is the best way to ensure the healthy survival of our land and the protection of this small part of the planet.

We also know we have a continuing major fight to keep off-road vehicles out of our ancient heritage in takayna, away from our sacred sites in the highlands, on the south coast, in the south west and indeed all over milaythina nanya.

Raitje must come to value our milaythina – to love our land that has sustained us through millenia. This is the only way there will be any future for our planet.

VOTE ENVIRONMENT