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# HEALTH PROFESSIONALS INDUSTRIAL ACTION

## *Test for Lennon and Llewellyn*

The Tasmanian Greens last week said that both Premier Lennon and Health Minister Llewellyn were facing a leadership test over their willingness to negotiate in good faith the work conditions claim of the State's Health Professionals.

Greens Opposition Health and Human Services spokesperson Tim Morris MHA warned that the Labor government could be resorting to the underhand tactic of refusing to enter into meaningful negotiations with the unions so that the issue would be forced to go before the Industrial Commission where it could take many months before the matter is resolved.

"Both Premier Lennon and Minister Llewellyn must acknowledge the

unions' letter requesting a commitment to address the wages and conditions claim by 5pm on Monday, to avoid strike action being taken by the Health Professionals," Mr Morris said.

"Such industrial strike action is only taken by our Health workers as a last resort cry for help, and if that cry goes unheeded then the blame falls squarely on the Lennon government for any disruption experienced by the health system."

"Similarly it would be a cynical and an underhand move by the Labor government to hold out from serious negotiations to delay the matter to the extent that the unions would have little choice but to go to the Industrial Commission, which would then result in a further delay before this claim is resolved."

"The alternative is for the Premier to instruct Minister Llewellyn to buckle down and get on with meaningful negotiations with the health workers and the unions so that this matter can be resolved sooner rather than later," Mr Morris said.

"The International Commission of Jurists have expressed concern that Howard is relying on the states to circumvent a constitutional impediment to detention without change and we should heed their call for the States to stand firm against the changes," Ms Putt said.

## STAND APART FROM OTHERS ON TERROR LAW BIDDING WAR, LENNON URGED

### *Stand Up for Rights and Freedoms at COAG Meeting*

The Tasmanian Greens have called on Paul Lennon to carry through on his disquiet on anti-terror laws and reject dangerous plans for extraordinary and extensive police search powers without warrant which are mooted by Kim Beazley and some Labor Premiers, and to also dismiss Howard's proposed preventative detention laws, at the next Council of Australian Governments (COAG) meeting in Canberra.

Greens Opposition Leader Peg Putt MHA said the Greens would steadfastly

oppose the erosion of basic rights and freedoms, and that the heads of government meeting should be focussing on emergency planning to combat the threat of a bird flu pandemic if they were serious about safeguarding the wellbeing of Australian citizens.

"The Greens will stand up for the hard won rights and freedoms of Australian citizens against this dangerous push from both Howard and Beazley to unreasonably expand pre-emptive detention powers and allow extensive police searches without warrants" Ms Putt said.

## SUPPORT FOR WIND ENERGY TO ASIA BUT NOT SURE OF DEAL ON TASMANIAN WINDFARMS

### Labor Could Also Privatised Bell Bay

The Tasmanian Greens last week said that they support the Hydro taking wind energy into Asia but want to examine closely a joint venture deal with Chinese investors which has implications for the ownership and development of windfarms in Tasmania.

Greens Opposition Leader Peg Putt MHA responded to concerns that Labor had breached its election commitment not to sell the Hydro saying that she had repeatedly raised this concern when Labor voted down her 'Hands Off the Hydro' Bill in 2001, and instead brought in their own legislation which allows Bell Bay to be sold as well as the wind farms.

"The Greens have for years advocated

that Tasmania become focussed on selling windpower generation to Asia as this would strengthen our clean, green economy and enable environmentally friendly power generation in neighbouring countries," Ms Putt said.

"We are pleased that the Hydro will expand into supplying wind power to Asia, but this does not mean we automatically condone the aspect of the joint venture arrangement which affects our Tasmanian windfarms, and we will need to examine the detail of this deal."

"At last Labor's weasel words about not selling the Hydro have become widely known, yet back as far as 2001 I raised the alarm when Labor voted down my 'Hands off the Hydro' Bill and instead restricted their promise to the dams."

"Not only have Labor reserved the right to sell the wind farms they have also reserved the right to privatise Bell Bay."

"Ms Putt also pointed out that the Hydro's joint-venture deal came about because of the precarious debt situation of the Hydro, something which the government has also sought to cover over with weasel words when they trumpet their reduction of net general government debt but fail to mention high debt levels in government Business Enterprises.

### ATRAZINE ABOVE DRINKING WATER GUIDELINES

#### Call to Outlaw Chemical Trespass

The Tasmanian Greens are concerned by chemical testing results which showed the herbicide atrazine present above drinking water guideline levels in the Rubicon River in late July, and the herbicide Terbacil in the Little Swanport River following a rainfall event in late June.

Greens Opposition Leader Peg Putt MHA said that while the government sought to downplay the significance of the testing results the Tasmanian community wanted Tasmania to be truly clean and green, and would not tolerate the chemical trespass involved when users of pesticides allowed that chemical to move off their property into the surrounding environment.

"It is unacceptable that the herbicide atrazine has been found above the drinking water guidelines in the Rubicon River, and outrageous that the Minister has tried to play down the significance of this result rather than admitting that the new water testing regime forced on government by community outcry has produced a result which means strong action must be taken," Ms Putt said.

## KONS ADMITS THAT 850 HECTARES OF CANOLA MAY HAVE TO BE DESTROYED

### Admits Two Open Air Crop Trials Washed Away But Silent on Fate of Seed

The Tasmanian Greens have called for the Primary Industries Minister to release an Emergency Plan to deal with possible GE canola contamination, saying that the urgent need for such a strategy was highlighted by last week's revelations that two of the government's grow-out canola trials have been washed away following heavy rainfall.

Greens Opposition Primary Industries spokesperson Kim Booth MHA said that Minister Kons revealed in response to Greens' questioning that 850 hectares across Tasmania were planted with canola from the four suspect seed lines, which have been involved in the recent GE

contamination instances in WA, SA, and Victoria.

"The Minister, Steven Kons, must release the GE Emergency Plan he assured the Parliament exists, especially in light of his confirmation that two government grow-out trials of suspect canola seed were recently washed away, requiring them to be replanted," Mr Booth said.

"The Greens believe that a comprehensive GE Emergency Plan must rule out the possibility of allowing any plants suspected of being GE to mature to flowering stage, to minimise the possibility of seed being set, and must also set out clear provisions addressing crop destruction, quarantine issues, liability and compensation for growers."

#### Your Greens Representatives in Tasmania's State Parliament



**Peg Putt**  
Denison



**Nick McKim**  
Franklin



**Kim Booth**  
Bass



**Tim Morris**  
Lyons

#### Want to know more about the issues in Greenweek?

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