

# GREEN JOBS AND SKILLS OF THE FUTURE

## BUILDING BACK GREENER & FAIRER: A GREEN NEW DEAL FOR LUTRUWITA/TASMANIA

### BACKGROUND

Long overrepresented in unemployment statistics, young Tasmanians have also been disproportionately impacted by the economic fallout of the pandemic.

Youth unemployment in Tasmania is the highest in the nation, while housing insecurity and homelessness amongst young people living in poverty is also rising.

It is time to provide more opportunities for young people, and better harness their skills to help tackle the big challenges of the future.

Young Tasmanians need a youth job guarantee.

Technological innovation and changes in the global economy are leading to structural changes in Tasmania's workforce. Depending on the locality, as many as 19%-28% of current jobs in Tasmania could be lost to automation by 2030.

These shifts will add to the pressures Tasmanians are already experiencing. Since the early 1990's, the rate of insecure work in Australia has been growing. Employment, particularly youth employment, has been negatively impacted by COVID-19.

We need to solutions to the shortfalls of the current labor market. The Greens support the introduction of a Job Guarantee program to provide secure, guaranteed work with full entitlements to the unemployed.

### Tasmanian Employment Office

The principle of a job guarantee is that the program acts as a 'buffer stock' to take on workers that the job market is unable to accommodate.

A job guarantee is distinct from 'work for welfare' programs in that it provides full legal employment entitlements, and it does not form part of any mandatory eligibility program – it is a fully voluntary employment option.

A key component of a job guarantee program is to maintain its status as providing an employment buffer stock, rather than a direct competitor to other employers.

We will establish the Tasmanian Employment Office in two phases. Phase 1 will focus on the development of Job Guarantee programs and partnerships. Phase 2 will involve rolling-out the Job Guarantee program.

*The Tasmanian Greens acknowledge and pay respect to the palawa/pakana people as the original owners and ongoing custodians of lutruwita/Tasmania. We are committed to Truth, Treaty, Justice, and the return of lands.*

### Job Guarantee Program

Youth unemployment is particularly high, currently sitting at 15.4%. Initially targeting a program at youth employment will allow for a controlled assessment, and rollout, of a Job Guarantee program. This would ensure that impacts on the economy, specific industries, and program participants could be fully addressed before wider roll-outs.

We will establish a Job Guarantee Program. The program will offer a guaranteed job for 16-hours a week at a living wage with full entitlements, including superannuation. The program will initially be offered to Tasmanians under the age of 19, and will extend to all age groups by 2030.

We will attempt to secure Commonwealth funding in order to fund the program for employment of up to 40-hours per week.

### Job Guarantee Workforce 'Streams'

A Job Guarantee program has the potential to fill a range of unmet demand in work for a whole range of sectors. However, there is a risk that using the program in this way could cause these sectors to rely on Job Guarantee workers instead of hiring employees – driving down wages and failing to create new employment.

For this reason, the initial Job Guarantee program will establish well-considered 'streams' that are designed based on careful consultation with target sectors and experts.

We will design a limited number of 'streams' for the initial rollout of the Job Guarantee workforce. The initial streams will include environmental restoration, as well as a support workforce for the care sectors.

### Future Work

A Job Guarantee program will provide an employment safety-net, but will not in itself resolve all of the contemporary challenges our labour market has as we adapt to automation and a changing climate. Governments need continuous and informed advice to tackle the challenges we currently, and increasingly will, face.

The Tasmanian Employment Office will be tasked with providing ongoing advice on the future of work, and policies to relieve employment insecurity. This will include an examination of moving towards a four-day work week (while retaining current fulltime wages), where and how reskilling efforts need to take place, and future industries that Tasmania should be investing in.

# GREEN NEW DEAL

