



SENATOR JONATHON DUNIAM

Liberal Senator for Tasmania

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Dear Tania

Thank you for sending through the additional questions from the recent YNOT Panel with the Pollies event in Hobart.

Please find attached my answers to these questions.

Should I be able to assist further then please let me know.

As always, please let me know if there are any other issues with which I can assist, or if there are any issues you think I need to be aware.

Yours sincerely

Senator Jonathon Duniam
Liberal Senator for Tasmania

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Additional Questions from Young People

1. Do we truly have full transparency around political donations at state and federal levels? There is a lot of distrust around politicians as we believe that many of you are just trying to 'line your pockets' and ensure the corporations that support you have their needs met.

Recent law changes have seen foreign donations to political parties of more than \$100 banned, a move that further strengthens the integrity of Australia's electoral system. The passing of this legislation ensures that political campaigning that targets Australian voters, be it election advertising, campaign phone calls or how-to-vote recommendations, is paid for by Australians.

It is important that the public trusts elected representatives to act in their best interests and legislation changes, such as those outlined above are designed to ensure that this is the case.

While some politicians have entered politics for the right priorities (representing the people) always get found out by the media and voters. I, for one, only care about the people I represent, Tasmanians!

2. Homelessness and the housing crisis is a huge issue within Tasmania. What do you plan on doing about it?

As I mentioned at the forum, I believe that this is an issue that should be collaboratively worked on by all three levels of government, but that it is imperative that local governments take the lead and release land for development.

Recently with the Hobart City Deal announcement, \$30 million was provided for social housing projects in Hobart, which will be delivered in partnership with community housing providers. The funding will be used to build 130 diverse dwellings in Greater Hobart that will provide a range of affordable housing options close to work, play, transport and services.

3. Where do you and your party stand on the decriminalisation of drugs, legalisation of marijuana for personal use, and pill testing at festivals?

The use of marijuana for personal use and other dangerous drugs is illegal. This is due to the potential harm that drug use can cause to users, their family and friends, as well as to innocent bystanders.

It my belief that pill testing sends the wrong message and suggests that drug use is okay. Instead, more resources and funding should be invested into education and training program that teach all Australians about the dangers of illicit substance use.

Through proper training and education regarding the harm associated with the use of drugs, we can ensure that festival goers are safely able to enjoy these events without a need for pill testing, which only serves to normalise the behaviour.

4. China has stopped taking our recyclables. What does the future of recycling in Australia look like? Do we need to look into alternative measures instead of single use plastic?

Wherever we can we should always look to sustainable alternatives to protecting the environment. It is important that any decision made with regard to this, is done so without disadvantaging small businesses that may find it difficult to compete with larger businesses that can afford to immediately implement changes.

Instead, it would be more appropriate to encourage the use of recyclables through the offer of incentives to businesses and individuals to recycle and use environmentally friendly products. Through encouraging and providing incentives to businesses and others to recycle and be environmentally friendly we can ensure that Australia has an environmentally sustainable future.

5. Do you see Australia one day using nuclear power to produce cheap and reliable energy? Are there other alternatives other than fossil fuels that will be major pollutants and will become more expensive as the reserves begin to dry-up?

It is important that Australia has cheap and reliable energy and in order to achieve every possible option must be considered. It is imperative that energy options, such as Nuclear, Hydro, wind and solar are all examined to determine how we can produce cheap, affordable and reliable energy to ease cost of living pressures.

If Nuclear power provides this option, then it is important that it is considered, but it is also worth noting that Tasmania has an aim to have 100% renewable energy, which is achievable through our existing hydro, wind and solar options. Through Federal and State Liberal governments, we have seen investment in the Battery of the Nation and Marius projects, which are secure reliable and renewable power sources that Tasmania will be able to export to the rest of the nation. This will ensure that Tasmanians have safe, reliable and affordable access to energy into the future.