



Sue Hickey

Independent Candidate for Clark

ph: 0429 475 937

email: sue@suehickey.com.au



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Dear Adrienne,

Thank you for sending TasCOSS's election priorities. As you would likely know the priorities you have set are the areas that I have been advocating for ever since I came into public life.

Reducing homelessness has been on top of my list. You may be aware from my previous time in parliament my work with the homeless. This has not diminished and anything we as politicians can do to do away with homelessness through direct action and intervention has my absolute support. I was proud of what I managed to achieve in a short period of time and within a party system that believed these societal issues were an anathema to it. I will continue to fight for greater input into housing and have already said I will push for \$100 million interest free loans to support social and affordable housing providers to build up to 400 new homes. This will provide stock and drive down rental prices. Access to affordable, safe, and secure housing is a basic human right for every Tasmanian family.

Improving affordability and access to public transport across Tasmania is a given. I can't believe how the former administration has allowed it to get to this stage. The announcement of a 12 months' reduction in public transport fares doesn't go far enough and, in any case, it goes nowhere if the service isn't available. Access to affordable and reliable public transport is necessary for employment, education, and training opportunities, and to access basic needs such as grocery shopping, health services, childcare and other essential supports. Public transport needs to be reliable and sustainable for the community.

Bringing down energy costs is another area where we've been let down by government and for which I am willing to advocate if elected. We must adopt smarter energy policies and fairer electricity pricing mechanisms to build a better future for the State. Tasmanians have been paying too much for their electricity for too long and little has been done to support energy efficiency and savings.

Improving food security and closing the digital divide in Tasmania, the latter in the regions and for older people, are also key areas that have my support.

I have already given my support to other peak bodies regarding funding sustainability for the not-for-profit sector. I am on record for advocating for sustainable and guaranteed peak body funding under a five-year model.

Frankly, these basic community needs shouldn't have to wait until an election to gain the attention of the major political parties.

Thank you again, and I am happy to talk to you further if elected on March 23 to progress these priorities.

Kind regards.

Yours sincerely,

Sue Hickey
Independent candidate for Clark

Authorised J Pritchard 23a Cadbury Rd Claremont 7011