



## Aboriginal Issues in the Tasmanian Election 2018: summary

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TAC asked the known candidates for the forthcoming State election about their policies on Aboriginal issues. Here's a summary of what the major parties said. We'll include answers from other parties and candidates as we receive them.

### What we asked

1. Do you agree that Aboriginal heritage protection legislation should recognise that the Aboriginal community are the collective owners of our own heritage?
2. Do you support the return of unalienated Crown land to Aboriginal community ownership?
3. Do you support the continuation of the current Aboriginal and dual naming policy introduced by the Labor/Green government and continued under the Liberal government?
4. Do you agree that special measures are needed to improve education and employment outcome for Aboriginal people in Tasmania?
5. Do you accept that it will be impossible to 'close the gap' in Aboriginal health outcomes in the absence of a dedicated Aboriginal Health Plan for Tasmania accompanied by appropriate data collection and funding as occurs in every other State and Territory?
6. Do you support Aboriginal community management of lands recognised in State and Federal law as important for their Aboriginal values, including the Western Tasmania Aboriginal Cultural Landscape in takayna/Tarkine and land declared Aboriginal land at nungu/West Point, Iaraturanawn/Sundown Point and similar areas?
7. Do you think it's time to recognise Aboriginal dispossession by starting discussions for a Treaty between the people of Tasmania and the Aboriginal community?
8. Do you support changing the date of Australia Day from the date of English invasion on 26 January 1788?
9. Do you agree that Tasmania should revert to the long-established practice of requiring some evidence of Aboriginal ancestry rather than solely self-identification in order for a person to be eligible for government services for Aborigines?

### Who responded to our survey

- **Liberal Party:** We received a response from Will Hodgman, Premier and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs on behalf of the Tasmanian Liberal Party.
- **Labor Party:** We received a collective response from the Tasmanian Labor Party. Additionally Zelda Sherlock, Labor candidate for Denison and Kylie Wright, Labor candidate for Lyons, contacted to express their support for Aboriginal issues.
- **Greens Party:** We received a collective response from the Tasmanian Green Party candidates and branch members. Additionally, individual candidate responses from Richard Atkinson, Franklin; Holly Ewin, Franklin; Scott Jordan, Braddon; Kay McFarlane, Alderman, Clarence Council; Tammy Milne, Greens, Alderman, Devonport Council; Philip Nicolas, Braddon; Julie Norbury, Braddon; Hannah Rubenach-Quinn, Lyons.
- **Other candidates:** We sent the survey to parties known to be standing in the election on 26 September 2017. We are now seeking the views of parties or candidates who announced their intention to stand after the writs were issued. This includes candidates standing as part of the Jacquie Lambie Network, the Shooters, Fishers and Farmers and independent candidates. We will add their views to the briefing as we receive them.



## What the parties said

### Summary

	Liberals	Labor	Greens
<b>1. Recognising Aboriginal community as collective owners of our heritage</b>	Support Aboriginal Relics Amendment Bill Support Aboriginal Council and Cultural Management Group Support consultation with the Aboriginal and broad communities on next step for reforms.	Support a full review of what is now the Aboriginal Heritage Act	Fully support recognition of Aboriginal community as collective owners of our heritage.
<b>2. Returning unalienated Crown land</b>	Committed to a review of the land return model to investigate opportunities to progress future land handback and joint land management opportunities with Tasmanian Aboriginal people.	Committed to work with the Aboriginal community in Tasmania to identify and progress land returns.	Not policy to return all unallocated Crown Land. But, recognise that restitution will primarily be achieved through the further return of land.
<b>3. Dual naming</b>	Review Aboriginal and Dual Naming Policy, to enable further consultation and the inclusion of the broader Aboriginal community.	Support dual naming of Tasmanian geographical features and places.	Support the continuation of the current Aboriginal dual naming policy.
<b>4. Education and employment outcomes for Aboriginal people</b>	Specific initiatives targeting Aboriginal workers in public and community services Commitment to inclusive teaching and learning that values Aboriginal community and culture. Education and employment initiatives open to all Tasmanians.	Supports existing targeted education and employment initiatives. Open to suggestions about how to further improve the educational standards of Aboriginal people.	Support special measures to improve education and employment outcomes for Aboriginal people.
<b>5. Aboriginal Health Plan</b>	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health and Wellbeing 2016-202 Framework Agreement Cultural Respect Framework for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health 2016-2026 Number of broader health initiatives that include Aboriginal focus, including an action plan in relation to mental health, social and emotional wellbeing under the Tasmanian Aboriginal Health Framework.	Commit to reviewing and updating the Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing Strategic Plan. Will establish the Healthy Communities Commission.	Support an Aboriginal Health Plan and associated data and funding.
<b>6. Recognising importance of Aboriginal community land management to community values</b>	Review of the land return model to investigate opportunities to progress future land handback and joint land management opportunities with Tasmanian Aboriginal people.	Committed to a package to deliver greater protection and management for the Arthur Pieman Conservation Area and to empower local decision making.	Recognise importance of Aboriginal community land management to community values.
<b>7. Treaty</b>	No plans to negotiate a treaty	Committed to Treaty	Committed to Treaty
<b>8. Changing the date</b>	No plans to change the date	Support a change of date	Support a change of date
<b>9. Evidencing Aboriginality for Govt. services</b>	Will remain in line with Australian Government policy	All indigenous Tasmanians deserve recognition	Revert to evidence of Aboriginality