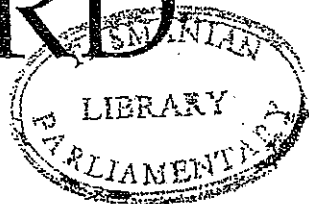


THE GREEN / ALP ACCORD



29th MAY 1989

HISTORIC AGREEMENT BETWEEN FIVE INDEPENDENTS
(BOB BROWN, GERRY BATES, DIANNE HOLLISTER,
LANCE ARMSTRONG AND CHRISTINE MILNE) AND
THE AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY (TASMANIA)

- THE ACCORD IN FULL
- WHAT IT MEANS
- WHY IS IT NECESSARY
- FOREWORD BY BOB BROWN

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Foreword

The week leading to the Green Independent/Labor Accord put all five Independents through a phenomenal test.

We had repeatedly said during the election campaign that we would not cause instability with a balance of power situation but would make an accommodation with either of the two major parties in the interests of Tasmania.

We have done that - helped by countless contacts, criticism and encouragement from people throughout the state.

The Accord does not put us in a coalition. We decided not to take cabinet posts (with their extra wages, white cars and so on).

Instead, with the Field Labor Government we have gained an unprecedented Accord and so gain access to and influence on the whole range of government decisions.

As you will see in the Accord, Tasmania gets a new degree of openness in democracy, including Freedom of Information. And we have at the outset a list of innovative social, economic and environmental reforms.

The Accord is well short of covering all issues. But it is the basis upon which we aspire to build a period of much improved government.

In keeping with our commitment, we did enter negotiations with Mr Gray's party. But then Mr Gray did an about turn on an agreement to resume those talks.

For us not to make a clear choice of supporting a party was indeed to make a choice. If we had simply sat on the cross benches, by default we would have let Mr Gray's government continue - with no innovation, no environmental guarantees and no new openness with the people.

He could have licensed the Huon Forest Products chip mill; set off logging in magnificent forests including the Douglas Apsley (now to become a national park in the Accord) and misdirected public money - like the \$20 million offer to Noranda-North Broken Hill for the Wesley Vale pulpmill.

The Accord is a document for optimism, opening exciting opportunities for the future.

The events leading to the Accord were trying, even harrowing. But we have nevertheless succeeded and The Independents have emerged even more strongly bonded in our vision for Tasmania.

We welcome your participation, advice and efforts in the weeks, months and years ahead.

Bob Brown

Independent Member for Denison

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HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Leader of the Opposition
Parliament House
Hobart 7000

29 May 1989

The Hon. R.T. Gray MHA
Premier
Executive Buildings
15 Murray Street
HOBART 7000

Dear Premier

The Parliamentary Labor Party and the five elected Independents have today reached a Parliamentary Accord which ensures the support of my party as an effective government.

A signed copy of the Accord will be forwarded to you in due course.

On behalf of the Parliamentary Labor Party

(Michael Field)
LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

WE CONFIRM THAT AN ACCORD TO THIS EFFECT HAS BEEN REACHED

(Dr Bob Brown)
MEMBER FOR DENISON

(Dr Gerry Bates)
MEMBER FOR FRANKLIN

(Mrs Christine Milne)
MEMBER FOR LYONS

(Rev. Lance Armstrong)
MEMBER FOR BASS

(Mrs Di Hollister)
MEMBER FOR BRADDON

TASMANIAN PARLIAMENTARY ACCORD

An agreement between the Parliamentary Labor Party and The Green Independent members of Parliament.

Michael Field
(LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION)

Dr. Bob Brown
MEMBER FOR DENISON

Dr. Gerry Bates
MEMBER FOR FRANKLIN

Mrs. Christine Milne
MEMBER FOR LYONS

Rev. Lance Armstrong
MEMBER FOR BASS

Mrs Di Hollister
MEMBER FOR BRADDON

TASMANIAN PARLIAMENTARY ACCORD

An agreement between the Parliamentary Labor Party and The Green Independent members of Parliament to work together to -

- maintain stable government in Tasmania
- create a more open, community-responsive style of government
- enable individual members of both Houses of Parliament to play a greater role in the legislative process and development of government policy
- enhance the role of Parliament
- introduce much-needed social, economic, environmental and parliamentary reforms to Tasmania.

1. Stable Government

- a) Labor confirms that the introduction of fixed four-year parliamentary terms will be a priority in its first year in office.
- b) Green Independent members agree -
 - i) to support the Labor Government's Budget and Supply Bills
 - ii) not to support or abstain from any Opposition motion of no confidence
 - iii) to attend all parliamentary sittings and be present for all votes and divisions, except where pairs are granted.

2. Agenda for Reform

Labor confirms that its agenda for reform is as outlined in appendix 1.

3. Review of Accord

The PLP and the Green Independents agree to meet on a regular basis to review the implementation of the Tasmanian Parliamentary Accord.

HEADS OF AGREEMENT

1. Input by Green Independent members into Government
 - a) Green Independent members to nominate spokespersons in policy areas
 - b) minimum monthly meetings between relevant Green Independent spokespersons, ministers and appropriate public servants
 - c) Green Independent members to be given access to the State Service with formal interviews implemented through the Premier's Office
 - d) Cabinet and Green Independent members to meet on a regular basis to discuss general policy matters. Frequency of meetings to be by agreement
 - e) Green Independent members to be given the option of attending ministerial and similar conferences as observers.
 - f) Green Independent members to be enabled to make policy submissions to ministers prior to any decision by cabinet. This may be achieved through cabinet committees
 - g) Green Independent members to be guaranteed pre-Cabinet consultation on legislation.
2. Parliamentary Reform
 - a) a total review of parliamentary procedures and standing orders to -
 - i) develop a more open parliamentary system
 - ii) enable individual members to have greater input into the legislative process
 - iii) to enable the Green Independents as a group to have the same rights as the Opposition in the House.
 - b) establishment of set sitting times along the Commonwealth model
 - c) advertising of parliamentary sitting times to encourage greater public attendance
 - d) the creation of new parliamentary committees including estimates committees

- e) establishment of a register of pecuniary interests for parliamentarians and municipal councillors
- f) public disclosure of electoral gifts and donations to parties and individual candidates
- g) abolition of subsidised liquor to Ministers.

3. Departmental Appointments

- a) Green Independents to be consulted on appointments to selection panels for heads of departments
- b) Green Independents to be consulted if Cabinet is not going to accept recommendations of selection panel or if Cabinet is to make a direct appointment
- c) agreed mechanism to resolve a dispute would be that in the event of disagreement Green Independent spokesperson would consult with the minister prior to an appointment being made.

4. Legislative Research Service

- a) The legislative research service should be divided into three categories:
 - i) the economy
 - ii) ecological management
 - iii) social issues.
- b) Each category should have the equivalent of at least one full-time position. These experienced researchers will provide members with explanations, analysis and assessments of subject information and of policy and public issues as requested by members of the Opposition, crossbenches, Government backbenchers and Legislative Council.
- c) The researchers should be seconded from the bureaucracy for from one week to six months depending on the nature of requests. (The number of secondments will vary from time to time according to demand.)
- d) Secondment would give enterprising public servants the opportunity for first-hand experience with the parliament. Secondment would also reduce the budget allocation needed for this service.

- e) To operate efficiently and effectively the team would require a manager-research co-ordinator and a secretary. The Green Independents should be consulted on the appointment of the manager-research co-ordinator. At least two other permanent research librarians must be provided for the use of all members (see Tasmanian Parliamentary Library Consultancy Report 1988).

5. Parliamentary Staffing

- a) Priority access to the Office of Parliamentary Counsel will be guaranteed for both the Opposition and Green Independents.
- b) Parity staffing with the Opposition will be provided to the Green Independents. Both Opposition and Green Independent members will be provided with adequate secretarial services in Burnie, Devonport, Launceston and Hobart as required.
- c) Facsimile machines and other appropriate resources will be made available to both Opposition and Green Independent members.
- 6. A Douglas Apsley National Park will be gazetted in 1989 with the boundaries defined by the Department of Lands, Parks and Wildlife by agreement with the Green Independents.
- 7. The Huon Forest Products venture will not be allowed to proceed.
- 8. The political mistakes of the Gray Government have ruled out Wesley Vale as the site for a future pulp mill. Therefore, there will be no new pulp mill at Wesley Vale.
- 9. The State export woodchip quota will not exceed 2.889 million tonnes per annum.
- 10. The Denison Spires area, Hartz Mountain National Park and Little Fisher Valley will be immediately added to the current World Heritage nomination. The Denison Spires area and Little Fisher Valley will be gazetted as National Parks in 1989.

11. The following areas will be nominated immediately for World Heritage listing:

- Hartz Mountains National Park
- Little Fisher Valley

while the following areas will be considered for listing as a matter of priority:

- Central Plateau Protected Area and adjacent forest reserves
- the Campbell River area
- the Eldon Range
- lower Gordon River (catchment).

12. The World Heritage Planning Team within the Department of Lands, Parks and Wildlife will prepare a report on the appropriate boundaries of a Western Tasmania World Heritage Area (with the existing National Estate Area as a reference point) for presentation to the World Heritage Committee by 1989.

13. Any National Estate forests within the greater Western Tasmania National Estate Area that a Labor Government agrees to protect will also be nominated for World Heritage.

14. National Estate Forests

This agreement recognises the importance of protecting National Estate forests and the need for a Labor government to strive to achieve this objective. It will be the stated policy of a Labor Government to give full and on-going protection of National Estate values and, together with the assistance of the Federal Government, ensure that the interests of timber-industry workers are protected. The Independents will continue to work for the complete protection of Tasmania's National Estate Areas. To achieve the above objectives:

a) Further logging and roading will not proceed in areas in which logging has not already been approved under the Federal-State forestry agreement in order to prevent exploitation of the forest resource pending the outcome of the review.

b) Current or scheduled logging and roading operations in the following areas will not be allowed to proceed:

- i) East Picton;
- ii) Jackeys Marsh;
- iii) Lake Ina.

c) A review process lasting at least a year will be established immediately upon a Labor Government assuming office to:

- i) investigate alternatives to logging in National Estate Areas and nominated areas (as at 31 May 1989) that are not already nominated for World Heritage or included within State Reserves
- ii) assess the economic and employment effects of protecting those National Estate Areas from logging operations and the strategies available to overcome these effects
- iii) ensure that the interests of timber-industry workers are protected.

d) That review process will be carried out by a forestry task force whose composition, structure and precise terms of reference will be determined by the Premier, Mr Field, and Dr. Bob Brown.

e) The resources, staff, data and facilities of the Forestry Commission will be at the disposal of the task force. The task force will also have access to data on forest resources in company concessions.

f) Representations to the review will be sought from industry, timber-industry unions, logging contractors, independent experts, conservation groups and other relevant parties.

g) The review will investigate but not be limited to:

- i) determination of the proportion of the State's total timber resource that lies within National Estate Areas not already nominated for World Heritage or included within State Reserves
- ii) installation of sawlog-recovery (flitch) mills at the State's chipmills and pulpmills
- iii) allocation of the \$41.5 million remaining from the 1988 forestry compensation package

- iv) increased utilisation of the sawlog resource on private land
 - v) better utilisation of the sawlog resource at the State's sawmills
 - vi) intensive management of selected sites
 - vii) improving efficiency by changing the concession system
 - viii) establishment of sawlog plantations
 - ix) increasing financial incentives to logging contractors to recover good-quality sawlogs
 - x) better supervision of logging operations and segregation of sawlogs throughout the State, and particularly in the ANM concession
 - xi) technological developments in wood processing
 - xii) shedding of timber-industry jobs through automation and restructuring carried out by the timber industry itself
 - xiii) the extent to which logging of National Estate Areas can be delayed without loss of jobs in the forestry industry
 - xiv) the role and future of Tasmania's small sawmills in the forestry industry.
- h) The \$41.5 million remaining from last year's compensation package will be used to help implement alternatives to logging National Estate Areas and to ensure the protection of timber-industry workers' interests. The Independents will participate in the allocation of that \$41.5 million.
15. Any National Estate Areas which the review identifies as not essential to the logging industry will be protected as national parks.
16. There will be a full review of the Forestry Commission and a move to abolish the concession system.
17. Areas already agreed to be nominated for World Heritage as a result of last year's Tasmanian Forestry Agreement will be protected as national parks, in 1989.

APPENDIX 1

Agenda for Reform

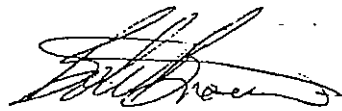
Labor's Agenda for Reform during its first term of office includes -

- a) fixed four-year parliamentary terms
- b) freedom of information legislation
- c) equal opportunities legislation
- d) price control legislation
- e) a feasibility study into the production of unbleached paper in Tasmania
- f) a government commitment to ensure that all new developments are environmentally safe
- g) commencement of a five-year program to clean-up Tasmania's waterways including an end to EPA exemptions and extra funding to local government
- h) new planning and environmental assessment legislation
- i) the injection of more funds into Tasmania's education system
- j) creation of the Douglas Apsley and Denisón Spires National Park
- k) creation of marine parks
- l) a major export drive to push Tasmanian quality products onto world markets
- m) establishment of the Tasmanian Youth Foundation to create more training opportunities for young Tasmanians and a commitment to meeting the needs of Tasmania's homeless youth
- n) implementation of the Care and Respect program for aged people
- o) establishment of a ministerial portfolio for aboriginal affairs and a ministerial advisory council comprised of aboriginal people to advise the new minister. The granting of inalienable freehold title to those areas of land which are of particular significance to the aboriginal people

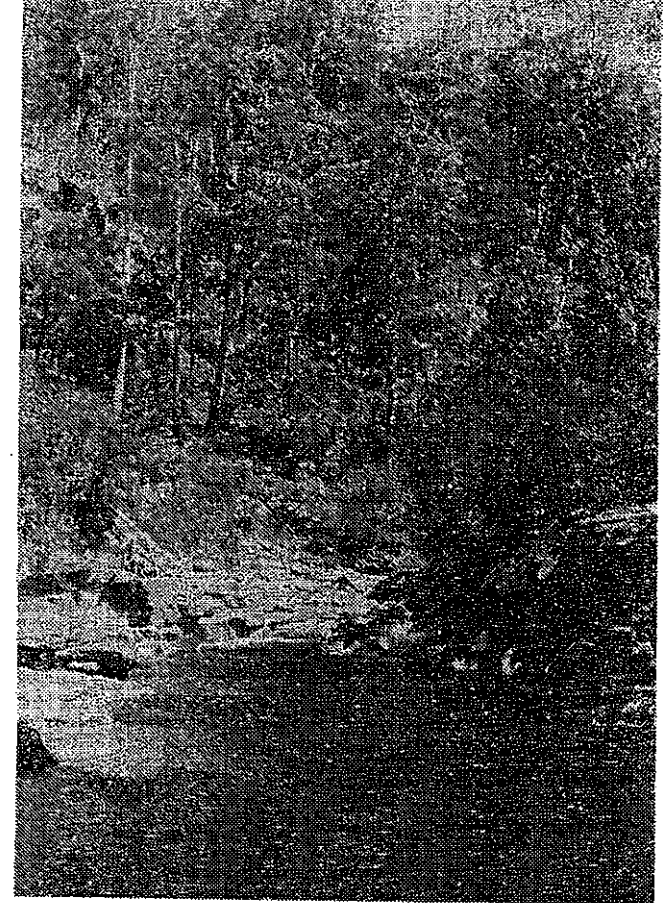
- p) the establishment of Wilderness and Wild and Scenic areas legislation
- q) establish consistent appeal provisions between Environment Protection Act, Mines Act, Sea Fisheries Act and local government
- r) reinstate land vested in HEC for lower Gordon dam as part of the Wild Rivers National Park and under the control of the Department of Lands, Parks and Wildlife
- s) public disclosure of bulk power contracts and royalty payments from mining companies
- t) public disclosure of the Nuclear Warships Safety Plan
- u) mining and mineral exploration will not be permitted in any national park or nature reserve. Any existing licences within World Heritage areas or National Parks will be revoked and the areas rehabilitated
- v) land degradation and deposit legislation
- w) decriminalise homosexual acts between consenting adults in private (with a free vote for ALP members).



Michael Field
(LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION)



Dr. Bob Brown
(MEMBER FOR DENISON)



Douglas Apsley...saved!

Without the Accord the Douglas Apsley and other areas would face a very uncertain future.

For more copies of this document
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