

# Environment no voice in Government

TASMANIA'S landscapes, iconic wildlife and 1800s built environment are the special features that both tourists and locals appreciate and value.

However, these features are not properly protected by the State Government because there is no spokesman at the Cabinet table to fairly and forcefully speak up for the environment.

The current arrangement of the same person being Minister for State Growth and Minister for the Environment

threatens Tasmania's future as a clean and green place to visit and do business, and for locals to enjoy.

The inherent conflict in this situation jeopardises a sustainable future for Tasmania, makes the Government's claim to be environmentally responsible disingenuous at best, and calls into question whether the Government is governing for all of us.

The promotion of issues such as fish farming in Okehampton Bay, logging of

old-growth forests, inappropriate high-rise hotels in Hobart, the plight of penguins statewide, severe cutting of resources in the Parks and Wildlife Service, continued access over Aboriginal cultural heritage sites in the Arthur-Pieman area and tourism development in World Heritage Areas, among others, highlight the weakness of the voice for the environment in the Government.

*Mercury*  
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