



MEDIA RELEASE - 12/04/2011

**OPPOSITION TO CANAL ESTATE BAN IGNORES REALITY AND RISKS
UNNECESSARY FUTURE COSTS TO STATE**

Environment Tasmania expressed disbelief today that the State Liberal party has announced their opposition to the recently tabled Canal Estates (Prohibition) Bill 2011, preempting debate due in Parliament later this week. The Bill recognises that the development of artificial canal estates on the mainland has led to serious adverse environmental and economic impacts and aims to avoid these consequences by providing clear guidance to developers.

"After 7 years, a rigorous and expensive taxpayer funded assessment that also cost the developer on the order of one million dollars, and a community campaign that cost everyday Tasmanians well over \$100,000 in pocket money, there is no longer any doubt - artificial canal estate developments are inherently unsustainable" said Dr Thomas Moore, oceanographer, and Environment Tasmania's Coasts Coordinator,

"Never again should the taxpayer, the community, and a developer have to wear such a cost to simply rediscover what we already know - canal estate development is simply not appropriate in Tasmania," he continued,

Victoria and NSW have already banned canal estates in recognition of their harmful impacts while the Tasmanian municipality of Kingborough has locally prohibited canal estate developments since 2000.

"One must ask opponents of this Bill that, if they can't support planning guidance based on years of credible and compelling experience across Australia and our own costly State assessment aimed at an inappropriate style of housing subdivision built in the sea despite climate change hazards, then what is their vision for Tasmania," Dr Moore continued,

"We now have an historic opportunity in The Canal Estates (Prohibition) Bill 2011 to lock in environmental and economic safeguards while providing certainty for developers, encouraging investment in more appropriate, sustainable projects." he concluded.

For more information or comment:

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About Environment Tasmania:

Environment Tasmania is the peak body for Tasmanian environment & conservation groups - and represents over 20 Tasmanian environment groups with collective representation of over 5000 Tasmanians.