



MEDIA RELEASE

GREG HUNT - 20 YEAR AUSTRALIAN ANTARCTIC STRATEGIC PLAN

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The Coalition will prepare a 20 Year Strategic Plan for the Antarctic and Research to enshrine Tasmania's position at the centre of Antarctic res to the region.

The Strategic Plan will consider Australia's generational interests in pre-researching the Antarctic Environment. In particular we will examine the strategic challenges and needs for Australia in the Antarctic including the requirements if we are to be an international Antarctic hub.

Shadow Climate Action, Environment and Heritage Minister, Greg Hunt announced today at Hobart International Airport with Senator Stephen David Bushby; Liberal Candidate for Denison, Tanya Denison; Liberal Candidate for Franklin, Bernadette Black; and Liberal Candidate for Lyons, Eric Hutchings.

"The Coalition has committed \$87 million for research and infrastructure to support Tasmania's role in Antarctica. A 20 Year Plan will ensure those investments deliver the greatest economic and scientific benefit and affirm our long-term commitment to the Antarctic," Mr Hunt said.

"Australia has had a leading presence in Antarctica built up from over 100 years of scientific research, engagement and protection of this unique and fragile environment."

"We will build on the tradition of Douglas Mawson to ensure Australia, and Tasmania remains at the forefront."

Senator Stephen Parry said: "The Coalition's \$38 million investment in the Hobart International Airport will ensure Tasmania can play an expanded role for Antarctica. It is important for local jobs and investment and is part of the *Economic Growth Plan for Tasmania*."

Senator David Bushby said: "I welcome this announcement as it will give the community direction on which they have certainty to invest and employ. Tasmania's reputation is already well known, but we can do better and generate further economic growth."

Development of the plan will be led by Tony Press who is currently the Director of the Antarctic Climate and Ecosystems Cooperative Research Centre (ACE CRC). In 2008, Mr Press was the Director of the Australian Antarctic Division.

Mr Press said: "I would be honoured to take on this role as I have a personal role in Antarctica. I want to ensure that we have the resources to support and attract the best from around the world to Tasmania."

The 20 Year Australian Antarctic Strategic Plan will address how Australia can be a world leader in the region. It will provide the blueprint for

engaged, active and visible in the region. It will provide the blueprint to focus on:

- ensuring robust and reliable access to the Australian Antarctic Territory;
- extending Australia's reach across the Australian Antarctic Territory;
- committing to undertaking nationally and globally significant science;
- committing to exercising influence in the region through the Antarctic Treaty;
- expanding the role of Tasmania as the gateway for Antarctic expeditions and research.

The Plan will build on the Coalition's \$24 million commitment over three years to establish a new Centre for Antarctic and Southern Ocean Research.

The Coalition will also continue the \$25 million in funding over five years from the 2013-14 Budget for the Antarctic Climate and Ecosystems Cooperative Research Centre.

To further strengthen the economic, tourism and scientific capacity of the region, the Coalition has committed \$38 million for upgrading the Hobart International Airport.

Authorised by Brian Loughnane, Liberal Party of Australia, Cnr Blackall & Macquarie St