

# St Helens Regional Community Forum

April 2009

## Premier's Message

I am determined to be a Premier who is connected and listens to his public. Tasmanians need to feel close to the political process and have the opportunity to pitch their ideas directly to the senior decision makers within State Government. A democracy is all about having a voice and a the government's job is to pay attention to that voice.

It is therefore extremely important for me and my Labor colleagues to personally hear the many current issues that face Tasmanian communities. Especially communities like the St Helens, that are looking for benefits to add value to tourism ventures and solutions for the St Helens Barway.

The Community Forum was a great opportunity for my ministers and heads of departments to see, firsthand the challenges and opportunities of this wonderful area. All Tasmanians should have the chance to access my cabinet and discuss issues concerning their communities and the State as a whole.

I would like to thank all the people of St Helens who took the time to attend the forum and to those who sought individual appointments with ministers.

David Bartlett  
Premier of Tasmania

## Issues Raised

### St Helens Barway

The St Helens Barway in its present condition has been acknowledged as a risk to boats and possibly to lives was raised at the community forum with residents calling on solutions.

The Government is pleased to announce that this year they intend to spend a total of \$1.35 million on the removal of 200,000 cubic metres of sand behind the training wall at Blanche Beach to help starve the barway of sand and restore the navigation channel.

A further expenditure of \$350,000 over each of the following three years will allow for further works as necessary.

### Bay of Fires

Another topical issue raised at the forum was the possibility of making the Bay of Fires a National Park. The Bay of Fires region contains significant natural and cultural values and has become a popular destination for local, national and international visitors.



It's attractiveness as a tourist destination was recently recognised and enhanced by being named as a top travel destination for 2009 by well known travel guide publisher 'Lonely planet'

The Government is now looking into turning the Bay of Fires into a National Park. The public consultation for this process will start in the next few months with key stakeholders and the public having the opportunity to be involved.

### Announcements

While the Government was in St Helens, the Premier announced that he would provide a grant to the East Coast ambulance volunteer service. The Premier acknowledged the effort and skill of all the volunteers who passionately give their time and effort to care for everyone in the community. Due to an increase in the number of volunteers there were not enough pagers to cover to go around so a grant of \$2,400 was provided by the Premier for the new pagers.

