



Nick McKim MHA

Thursday, 17 APRIL 2003

GREENS CALL FOR PERMANENT HALT TO RECHERCHE ROAD

Premier Must Do More

The Tasmanian Greens today said that they were pleased that the Premier had temporarily ruled out work on the logging access road through the Southport Lagoon Conservation Area, but called on him to fulfil his Ministerial responsibilities by permanently ensuring that no further work is carried out on the road.

Greens Environment Spokesperson Nick McKim MHA said that he understood that Parks had legal advice from the Solicitor General that they were not obliged to allow the access road, which was contrary to the earlier erroneous advice from Crown Land services on the basis of which the road was initially allowed.

“The Premier is not Minister for Roads, he is the Minister for Parks, and he has an obligation to act to preserve the natural values of this important Conservation Area which are under threat from the logging access road, and the only way he can do this is to call a permanent halt to road building for any purpose,” Mr McKim said.

“If completed, this road would result in a significant degradation of the Southport Lagoon Conservation Area, and would facilitate easy access for recreational vehicles, which has already proved to be a major management issue for the area.”

“Recreational vehicle users have often been implicated in the lighting of fires, which have often escaped into the Conservation Area with resulting impacts on values of the area.”