

A Question for a NON-PEER REVIEWED article in VIEWPOINT

Topic: The Greens and Balance of Power

Length: 3000-3500 (not including references)

Question

The recent state election in Tasmania resulted in a hung parliament, in the House of Assembly, with the Greens winning 5 seats and both the ALP and Liberals winning 10 each.

Both the ALP and Liberal Party publicly expressed their commitment to not form a minority government with the Greens. [Although at the time of writing a Tasmanian government has not yet been announced.]

The federal election is most likely taking place this year and the question of who will have the balance of power in the Senate will again be a hot topic.

It would not be contentious to describe the Greens as historically a progressive left minor party that mainly preferences and deals with the ALP. However, this next Federal election may give the Greens the balance of power in the Senate, in their own right, for the first time.

In your opinion, where on the spectrum would the Greens be positioned into the future: as a mainstream political party with a broad agenda and consistent political philosophy or more as a minor party with interests primarily limited to environmental concerns?

With the Tasmanian ALP having concerns about the Greens at a State election, should the Federal ALP, and Australians in general, have concerns about the Greens holding the balance of power at the Federal level?