



Australian Senate

**Christine Milne**

Australian Greens Senator for Tasmania

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**media release**

## **Governments must fund rabbit eradication plan for Macquarie Is**

The Australian Greens today called on the Tasmanian and federal governments to immediately fund the \$10 million plan to eradicate rabbits from Macquarie Island to halt the devastating impact they are having.

Greens Senator for Tasmania, Christine Milne, said the reported loss of life of countless penguins on the island in a recent landslip caused by erosion and heavy rains should jolt the federal and state governments into action.

“It is disgraceful that the federal and state governments have failed to fund the eradication plan that has been developed for this World Heritage property,” Senator Milne said in Hobart.

“The cost of this work is tiny compared to the amounts that Treasurer Peter Costello has dolled out to high-income earners through tax cuts in recent years.

“The island’s rabbit population has exploded for several reasons. Rabbits are breeding faster because of long dry spells, a direct result of climate change. Myxomatosis is no longer as effective as it was and the chief predator, cats, has been eradicated.

“The damage being done to Macquarie Island’s land and wildlife is part of Australia’s ecological deficit that has been growing while the Howard government boasts of budget surpluses. This government has its priorities all wrong.”

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