



Axe plea on ambo charges

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THE Tasmanian Greens have appealed to the State Government to show some compassion and drop plans to introduce an \$800-\$900 "user-pays" fee for every ambulance trip.

Greens leader Peg Putt said it was unacceptable for the Government to be asking struggling pensioners and low-income families to pay for ambulances when Tasmania has the highest poverty levels in the nation.

In her reply yesterday to Premier Paul Lennon's speech setting government priorities for 2008, Ms Putt said the community was angry over plans to charge for ambulances from July 1.

In other priorities outlined by the Greens as their vision for Tasmania, Ms Putt listed:

- * A split in the Department of Health and Human Services, to ensure issues of public housing, disabilities and family services are properly addressed and funded.
- * Better insulation of homes to help Tasmanians cope with rising power bills.
- * A new apolitical system to appoint the Tasmanian governor, with the community having some say.
- * Immediate investment in extra, new public housing.
- * A Bill of Rights for all Tasmanians.