



Australian Greens Policy on Tibet

Within this policy Tibet refers to the whole of Tibet known as Cholka-Sum in Tibetan, which contains the three provinces of U-Tsang, Kham and Amdo.

Self Determination and Democracy

1. The Greens recognise that Tibet was an independent country prior to its invasion and occupation by the People's Republic of China in 1949 and 1959 respectively.

2. The Greens recognise as per United Nations Resolution 1723 (XVI) of 1961 that under international law Tibetans are entitled to the right of self determination.

3. The Greens support the finding of the International Commission of Jurists that under international law Tibetans are entitled to the right of self determination.

4. While recognising the right to include a vote for independence, the Greens support the Dalai Lama's Middle Way approach, which is outlined in his Strasbourg Proposal to the European Parliament, 1988, and which will deliver democracy and autonomy to the Tibetan people.

5. The Greens call on the People's Republic of China to enter into constructive negotiations with the Dalai Lama or his representatives on the status of Tibet and relations between the Tibetan and Chinese peoples.

6. The Greens commend the Tibetan people, and their leader, His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama, for consistently rejecting the use of violence in their search for a resolution to the current situation in Tibet, and notes that this was acknowledged in the awarding of the 1989 Nobel Peace Prize to him.

Human Rights

7. The Greens express their continuing deep concern about widespread human rights abuses occurring in Tibet and call upon the Government of the People's Republic of China to respect the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in Tibet.

8. The Greens call upon the People's Republic of China to release all Tibetan political prisoners.

9. The Greens call on the Government of the People's Republic of China to open up Tibet to international human rights and humanitarian organisations and independent journalists.

10. The Greens support the Dalai Lama's proposals to make the entire Tibetan Plateau a demilitarised zone and for the People's Republic of China to actively promote peace in Tibet.

Cultural, Ethnic and Environmental Heritage

11. The Greens call for the abandonment by the People's Republic of China of its population transfer policy which impacts upon the cultural identity of the Tibetan people.

12. The Greens urge the Government of the People's Republic of China to protect the natural environment of Tibet, including its rivers, forests and wildlife, and to transform it into the world's largest national park or biosphere, supported by a policy of sustainable development whereby natural resources would be directed towards the active promotion of peace and environmental protection.

13. The Greens urge the world community to offer assistance with the protection and preservation of the unique cultural heritage and ethnic identity of Tibet and of the Tibetans in exile.

Relations with Australia

14. The Greens urge the Australian Government to appoint a Tibet Coordinator in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade to look after issues concerning Tibet and to liaise with the Chinese government and the Dalai Lama or his representatives.

[This policy was developed during 2003 by Michael Organ MHR, Federal Member for Cunningham, Senator Bob Brown of Tasmania and Tenzin Phuntsok Atisha, Representative in Australia of His Holiness 14th Dalai Lama. It was passed by the National Council of the Australian Greens at its meeting in September 2003]