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Tahiti, September 14, 2026 – Six years after winning only seven votes in the senatorial elections, Jacky Bryant is back in the fight under the colors of Heiura-Les Verts, this time in tandem with Tati Salmon. The former minister believes that the climate emergency has made the ecologist discourse more audible and criticises the outgoing senators for having piled up measures without carrying a global *"political vision"*. Climate change, energy, water and the decontamination of former military sites: he wants to make the transition a *"societal choice"* and bring an ecologist voice to the Senate that is clearly anchored to the left.

You were already a candidate for the 2020 senatorial elections. You only got seven votes. What makes you think that the electors will be more ready to vote ecologist this time?

"When you make the decision to get involved in politics, you admit that you will first be exposed. I could have joined a well-established political party and defended climate change issues as much as possible. But for the past 20 or 30 years, Polynesia has been stuck between a rock and a hard place, between autonomists and separatists. We forget that the richness of a country is first and foremost the people who make it up, its culture, its history, its biodiversity, its resources. Today, our discourse is more audible because the facts bring us back to a sad reality. We worked for all these years, participated in international conferences, until COP21 in Paris. At the time, the focus was still on reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Today, the question has become that of the intensity and repetition of climatic phenomena. Each time, we are told that they are exceptional. Those who say this are lying: the IPCC's work has warned us for a long time. What was exceptional is becoming the norm. The question is therefore how a senator can work on the country's ability to deal with it with the help of the State. The safety of people and property is also his responsibility. The municipalities intervene in an emergency, during a flood for example, but we need a much more global vision."

You criticise the outgoing senators for having multiplied small measures without having a global political vision. What do you intend to do that they didn't do if you were elected to the Senate?

"The addition of all these small measures does not make a vision. Just because you add one

plus one doesn't mean you're going to find two: you can just get a big bunch of little "ones". For ten years, the answer was: how to adapt? But have we really adapted? Take electric vehicles. Their number is increasing, which is very good. But at the same time, our consumption of fossil fuels is not decreasing in the same proportions. People no longer fill up at the station, they plug their cars into a network at home that is still partly powered by fossil fuels. And behind it is the question of the end of life of the batteries. The transition is necessary, but it must be consistent from start to finish. This is where a regional vision is needed: working with New Zealand, TaïAustralia, Japan or the Pacific organizations to think about the return and processing of the products we import. It is this coherence that makes, for me, a real political vision."

Climate change, energy, water management, decontamination of former military sites, why do these fights need an ecologist senator to be heard in Paris?

"Because it's a societal choice. The transition implies reviewing our way of consuming and moving towards more sobriety. This does not mean going back. When you go to buy toothpaste today, you sometimes have an entire row in front of you, with a tube wrapped in cardboard, sometimes surrounded by plastic. Sobriety obviously does not mean that we should no longer brush our teeth, but we must be aware that this consumer economy has a cost. And this starts with education. In the 1970s and 1980s, Polynesia was experiencing major dental hygiene problems. Children began to be taught to brush their teeth at school. Some considered that it was only a matter for the family. Yet, years later, these habits have become natural. It's the same with waste: my children learned how to sort it at school and, today, it's almost my son who teaches me how to do it. A societal transition takes time, but there is nothing utopian about it."

Heiura-The Greens is, along with Tapura, the only party to present two candidates in tandem. Why didn't you choose to concentrate your forces on a single candidate?

"Because the ideas of a political party cannot be carried by a single person. I am not Jesus, I do not walk on water and I do not perform miracles. More and more people need to take these convictions to the highest level of responsibility, even if learning is sometimes difficult. We must also confront our ideas with the electoral reality: how can we get our messages, our orientations and our choices across? This time, we are addressing the grand electors, who are perhaps even more demanding than the voters by universal suffrage, in an election that is not entirely democratic."

If you are elected senator, what commitment are you making today, on which you will be able to be held accountable in six years' time?

"I will sit with the ecologists, on the left. There is no ambiguity on this. All the major societal advances have been carried out by ecologists and the left, and those who have succeeded in advancing ecology are those who started by defending these ideas when they seemed marginal. Above all, I hope that we do not wait decades to admit the transition that is ahead of us. The municipalities have obligations, the country has them, and so does the State. We must now translate this transition into texts and prepare Polynesia for the intensity and repetition of climatic phenomena. I look at what Mereana Reid Arbelot has managed to do in the National Assembly. She is alone, everyone knows her commitment to independence, and yet she has succeeded in making it clear that the question of the consequences of nuclear tests concerns everyone. This is also the job of a parliamentarian: to make people understand that a Polynesian reality must become a national issue. The same must be done with rising sea levels and public infrastructure, including schools and colleges located on the coast. The question now is how we are going to react to all these phenomena that are hanging in our faces."

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