



City of **HOBART**

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

1 June 2017

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### **City of Hobart seeks other Councils' support for Australia Day date change**

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The City of Hobart has submitted Motions to the next Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) National General Assembly and to the Local Government Association of Tasmania's (LGAT) General Meeting requesting ALGA encourage other Australian councils and LGAT be requested to lobby Tasmania's 29 Councils to consider efforts they could take to lobby the federal government to change the date of recognition of Australia Day.

Lord Mayor of Hobart Alderman Sue Hickey said: "Every year there are ever increasing public rallies by both indigenous and non-indigenous people protesting against the current legislated date for Australia Day.

"Aboriginal people view it as Invasion Day and rallies held this year in capital cities drew tens of thousands of supporters. In Sydney alone, more than 50,000 people came out in support of a change of date.

"There is a growing acknowledgement that 26 January is not a day of celebration for all Australians. The current date has only been in practice since 1994 and before that time, it was celebrated on a long weekend in January.

"If consideration is given to changing the date that we recognise as Australia Day, it provides an opportunity to find a more inclusive date for all Australians to celebrate," the Lord Mayor said.

The Lord Mayor will present the motion to the Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly in Canberra on 20 June 2017 and to the Local Government Association of Tasmania's General Meeting on 26 July 2017.

**ENDS**

**For interview:**

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