



City of **HOBART**

MEDIA RELEASE

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Lord Mayor welcomes the Government's economic stimulus program for Councils statewide

The Lord Mayor of Hobart, Alderman Sue Hickey said that she was very excited about the Treasurer's announcement today that the Government planned to extend their capital works loans scheme for Council infrastructure projects statewide.

"This program is essentially offering \$60m worth of interest-free loans to Councils to help bring forward existing capital works projects.

"With the City of Hobart in the second year of a 10-year \$300m capital works program 'Transforming Hobart', this could give the Council the opportunity to bring forward some projects that have suddenly become imperative.

"Projects that will make it easier for people with disabilities to better access our city and facilities, as well as change room and toilet facilities for women now competing in the traditionally male sports of football and cricket at our sporting venues.

"It is simply not good enough for women participating in sporting pursuits to be changing in cars or to have to use bathrooms with urinals.

"We are currently upgrading many of our sporting facilities but the pressure to deliver more and in a faster timeframe is challenging on a constrained budget.

"An interest free loan however would allow us to spread the financial load without an impact to the ratepayers, so we look forward to receiving more details on the Government's program.

"The City of Hobart is undergoing an economic renaissance unlike anything we have seen in the past quarter of a century so it is important that we keep up with the maintenance and provision of excellent public infrastructure to underpin the investment from both the private and public sectors," said the Lord Mayor.

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