



Andrew Wilkie
INDEPENDENT FEDERAL MP

23 APR 2019

Councillor Anna Reynolds
Lord Mayor
City of Hobart
Town Hall
HOBART TAS 7000

Dear ~~Lord Mayor~~ *Anna*

Thank you for inviting me to speak with Elected Members and for the opportunity to respond to Council's 2019 federal election priorities. Following is a snapshot of where I stand on these issues, as well as my track record. I would be happy to elaborate or discuss any matter in more detail.

City Deal for Greater Hobart

I have been a champion for the Hobart City Deal and lobbied the Federal Government to ensure it was properly funded and a meaningful exercise. For example I secured \$30 million for affordable housing in the City Deal. Without this the Deal would not have included any commitment to affordable housing.

There is much, however, that the City Deal does not cover and more needs to be done in coming years to ensure that federal, state and local governments work together to make Hobart a truly liveable city. I support Council's vision for Hobart to be a "30 minute city", which is why I will continue to champion better public transport and cycling infrastructure, and a "smart city". I will continue to call for greater investment in organisations like the University of Tasmania, the CSIRO and the Australian Antarctic Division and will speak out against Labor and Liberal funding cuts.

Better health and wellbeing

I am proud to have secured a number of Federal Government funding commitments to sporting and recreational infrastructure in greater Hobart, under both Labor and Liberal governments. My genuine independence allows me to work with whoever is the government of the day to get results.

I have a particular interest in better sporting facilities for women and girls, and have obtained funding in recent months for upgrades at a number of greater Hobart facilities specifically to encourage women's and girls' participation. I have also secured grants for upgrades to some of the grounds mentioned in Council's list of priorities, including the TCA Ground and Wellesley Park. I commit to lobbying the Federal Government for the full \$16.5 million list Council has identified. I also commit to lobbying for the \$7 million required to redevelop the Doone Kennedy Hobart Aquatic Centre, subject to all reasonable community concerns being addressed.

Taking action for a safer climate

I have consistently been one of the strongest voices in Federal Parliament for action on climate change. I believe that we need to achieve zero net carbon emissions and 100% reliance on renewable energy by 2030. I commend Council for what they have done to reduce their own emissions and agree that all three levels of government need to better work together to tackle climate change. This should be led by the Federal Government and should include more formal and coordinated roles and responsibilities, as well as all assistance possible to local government to increase climate resilience.

Hobart as a welcoming city

Hobart's multiculturalism is one of its greatest strengths. The Federal Government needs to do more to assist municipalities to welcome refugees, such as more accessible community sponsorship as well as grants for multicultural community organisations. I support Council's call for a more generous and accessible refugee community support program. Labor and Liberal also need to do better on a national level when it comes to refugees and asylum seekers, for example by shutting down offshore processing and mandatory detention as well as not demonising those who come to Australia seeking our protection.

Hobart as a Smart City

Hobart is facing unprecedented challenges and opportunities, especially when it comes to making the City liveable and sustainable, and technology is key when it comes to scoping the scale of these challenges and how we address them. I support Council's call for additional funding for the Smart Cities and Suburbs Program and, if re-elected, will lobby the Federal Government for this funding. I will also lobby the Government to allow Council to make a revised submission to the Program and will provide any other assistance I can to see the project become a reality.

Making the most of our mountain

kunanyi / Mount Wellington is central to Hobart's sense of place and a key tourist attraction. I am proud to have recently secured \$800,000 from the Federal Government to revitalise Fern Tree Park to make it a modern gateway for visitors to the mountain. If re-elected, I will lobby the Federal Government for the \$6.75 million in visitor projects Council has identified, such as a dedicated visitor centre at the Springs and restoration of some of the much-loved tracks on or around kunanyi / Mount Wellington. I will continue to speak out against inappropriate developments on the mountain, such as a cable car.

Protecting our built heritage

Built heritage is one of the main reasons that tourists visit Tasmania and it must be protected. While I am pleased to have achieved some meaningful protections for built heritage, such as the \$1.65 million I secured for restoration of Battery Point's St George's Church, I understand that more needs to be done. To that end I will lobby the Federal and State Governments to put more resources into protecting Tasmania's built heritage and unique colonial history. I understand Council's call for innovative funding models for heritage and will lobby for these when appropriate, but remain firmly of the view that Federal and State Governments should simply fund the conservation of built heritage properly in the first place.

Affordable housing for Tasmanians

Everyone has the right to safe, secure and affordable housing. In Tasmania the current housing crisis is in many ways due to a failure of public policy by federal and state governments over many years. I support Council's call to waive Tasmania's housing debt and have lobbied a succession of Federal Governments to do just that.

More broadly a holistic solution is needed and would include: more crisis accommodation; more social housing; more supported accommodation for people with specific needs; rent-to-buy public housing; a 30% increase in Commonwealth Rent Assistance; improved grants and access to low interest loans for first home buyers; and light rail to the northern suburbs which would better link affordable housing with the city and jobs. I also want to see Airbnb returned to its original model of making spare rooms available and reforms to negative gearing and the capital gains tax discount on investment properties, both of which should be grandfathered on existing properties and applied to future Airbnb businesses and investment properties.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment and please let me know if I can provide any further information.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Wilkie', with a small mark above the 'i'.

Andrew Wilkie

Independent Federal MP