



**Ben McGregor**  
Labor for Clark

**Labor**



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

Dear Lord Mayor,

Thank you for inviting me to speak with elected members of the Hobart City Council regarding the Council's 2019 Federal election proposals. I am pleased to write in response, outlining my stance on the discussed issues and Labor's plan for these areas and the Hobart City Region.

### ***Greater Hobart City Deal***

Labor has committed to upholding funding for the Hobart City Deal as allocated in the latest Morrison Liberal Budget. However, we plan to do much more than that to ensure that Hobart is a liveable and vibrant city. Labor has already committed to improving upon the \$30 million for affordable housing that the Liberal Government has included in the City Deal. We have made a much larger housing commitment, building over 250,000 affordable homes nationally, to ensure that the housing crisis we are facing across the country, particularly in Hobart, is adequately responded to.

There are many shortcomings to the Liberal Government's planned City Deal. Labor is committed to improving this deal by including greater investments in organisations within Hobart. This month, I announced with Senator Kim Carr that a Shorten Labor Government will invest \$10 million into the research capabilities of the CSIRO, to ensure that world-class research into climate science can continue to occur right here in Hobart.

Labor is also working to resolve Hobart's traffic congestion. We are investing \$75 million into a Hobart congestion package. This will not only make Hobart's roads safer, but also boost productivity, thereby driving economic growth and job creation.

It is important that a broad range of subjects are detailed in the City Deal to provide the best possible agreement for our city. If elected, I will work hard to ensure that this City Deal is at the forefront of the incoming Government's mind.

### ***Upgrading Hobart's Sporting Facilities***

Labor understands that the best way to ensure more participation in local sport, particularly female participation, is to provide first-class facilities to cater for such participation. That is why Labor is investing in local sport by upgrading facilities across the greater Hobart region. Labor has committed to investing \$3.35 million to upgrade the facilities at the TCA Grounds in Queens Domain. As a central sporting facility in Hobart, Labor believes that these upgrades are vital to ensure continuous use of the grounds from the many clubs and patrons who call it home.

Labor has also continued investing in local sports in the greater Hobart region. This month, I announced that an elected Shorten Labor Government will invest \$800,000 from our Tasmanian *Save our Footy Fund* to upgrade facilities across Hobart, including at the New Town Oval. These investments in local sporting grounds will ensure greater participation in community sports, which in turn means happier, healthier, and more vibrant communities.

### ***The Doone Kennedy Hobart Aquatic Centre***

The aquatic centre in Hobart is a focal point for community activity and engagement. I love to bring my children to the aquatic centre for quality family time. I understand that as the facility gets older, repair and maintenance is required to keep it a vibrant place for families to attend. If elected, I am committed to advocating for refurbishment of the aquatic centre in Government.

### ***Taking Action on Climate Change***

Labor is committed to taking strong action on climate change. For six years under the Liberals we have gone backwards with rising carbon pollution. That is why Labor will deliver a comprehensive Climate Change Action Plan to cut our national emissions by 45 per cent on 2005 levels by 2030, and reach net zero emissions by 2050. This plan includes policies to tackle industrial emissions, land sector emissions, boost climate change adaptation, and Australia's first National Electric Vehicle Strategy to deliver 50 per cent of new car sales being electric vehicles by 2030. This will not only ensure that we leave a better world for future generations, but it will also ensure we properly address the unavoidable impacts of climate change we're already seeing impact Australia.

Labor has developed a comprehensive set of policies to ensure the issue of climate change is being faced head-on. Labor has also committed to establishing an Environment Protection Agency and legislating a new Environment Protection Act, to ensure that environmental law in Australia is strong and meaningful.

Labor has also committed to modernising our energy system and delivering clean energy through our Energy Plan. This includes:

- 45% reduction in carbon emissions from electricity by 2030.
- 50% renewable energy by 2030.

- \$10 billion of additional capital for the Clean Energy and Finance Corporation to support renewable end storage investment.
- A new \$5 billion Energy Security and Modernisation Fund, to support modernisation of energy networks to support greater use of renewable energy.

Labor's plan for climate change will ensure strong action and provide a brighter future for our children.

### ***Welcoming Refugees into Our Community***

I am proud to be a part of a Labor team who has committed to ensuring that Australia is a more welcoming community for refugees who choose to call Australia home. Labor believes Australia can do more to respond to the global migration crisis and ensure that refugees entering Australia are treated with dignity and respect. Labor has committed to increasing Australia's refugee intake, ensuring that more people can safely seek asylum in Australia and live happy and prosperous lives, and that they receive the support they require. Labor has prioritised the third country resettlement of remaining eligible refugees in offshore processing locations. We will do what Scott Morrison has refused to do – we will accept New Zealand's generous offer to resettle refugees and negotiate appropriate conditions so that it does not encourage people smugglers. We will also, as a matter of urgency, seek to negotiate resettlement agreements with other nations.

### ***Smart City and Suburbs Program***

I was disappointed to learn that Hobart had twice attempted and failed to receive funding for the Smart City and Suburbs Program. Funding programs such as this can truly ensure that our city remains amongst the best in the country, with innovative ideas and concepts being able to flourish. If elected as a part of the Shorten Labor Government, I will work hard to ensure Hobart is not left off the map. I will be a strong lobbyist for such funding, to ensure that Hobart receives its fair share.

### ***kunanyi / Mt Wellington***

The mountain is a core part of Hobart's culture and heritage. It is also a major site for tourism in the South of Tasmania. I will work to ensure that the mountain is enjoyable for all people as a tourist attraction, whilst also respecting the nature and beauty of the mountain. I also commit to advocating for better tourism infrastructure on the mountain if elected in a Shorten Labor Government.

### ***Protecting Hobart's Heritage Buildings***

Hobart is a city of rich history with many beautiful heritage buildings and structures. As time goes on, these buildings and structures become even more cherished and must be looked after if they are to withstand the test of time. Over the years, it appears the efforts to protect our heritage buildings across the country have been decreasing. This must stop. I am committed to advocating for better funding to help conserve Hobart's heritage buildings. These

structures must be protected for future generations, and as such, funding is required to ensure that this goal is achieved.

### ***Tasmania's Housing Debt***

Tasmania's housing debt is a part of what is a much greater issue of housing shortage and housing affordability in Tasmania. A clear light has been shone on the housing crisis in Tasmania, and particularly Hobart, where a shortage in supply has seen people living on the streets and in tents on the Hobart showground. Labor is committed to addressing the housing problem in Hobart, and indeed across Tasmania. I was proud to meet with Senator Doug Cameron, Shadow Minister for Housing, earlier this year in Hobart to announce Labor's commitment to provide over 250,000 affordable houses across Australia. This is one of the largest investments in housing our country has seen. Labor's investment in affordable housing will ensure that more Australians are given secure housing, and less people feel the pressures of not being able to afford or find a house in Hobart.

Thank you again, Lord Mayor, for the invitation to discuss with the Hobart City Council their key issues ahead of this year's Federal election. I am pleased to have been able to outline my plan for Hobart should I be elected as the member for Clark after May 18. I look forward to working with you and the elected members of the Hobart City Council.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'B. McGregor', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ben McGregor  
**Labor Candidate for Clark**

Authorised by S. Benson, Australian Labor Party (Tasmanian Branch), Hobart.