

CITY OF HOBART

2019 Federal Election Proposals



3/19



City of HOBART



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All photos by **Alastair Bett** except page 17: **Rosie Hastie**, pages 6, 8 and 18 City of Hobart



1 CITY DEAL FOR GREATER HOBART

Our growing city faces similar challenges to other growing cities: Traffic congestion, access to services and jobs, the need for quality infrastructure and urban amenity. Without strategic investment in planning, transit and housing, Hobart will not be able to grow sustainably. We want a deal for our city that addresses these challenges in a strategic way, and makes the most of our unique opportunities so that everyone can benefit.

In January 2018, the Australian and Tasmanian Governments entered into an agreement to develop a City Deal for Hobart in partnership with Hobart City, Clarence City, Glenorchy City and Kingborough Councils. This heralds a new era of city cooperation and we want to get it right.

The vision of the Greater Hobart Councils is for a city where residents can live, work, study and access services locally. We want a '30-minute' city supported by an integrated land use and transport vision. We want a 'smart city' based on education, science and our role as an Antarctic gateway, where economic development is spread throughout the region emphasising our strategic strengths.

The City Deal presented by the Australian Government is a ten-year commitment that is underpinned by a shared vision that will provide a framework to support Hobart to be a connected region linking communities, destinations and precincts.

The five key focus areas aim to support Hobart's growth as a vibrant, liveable Capital City. These are: Strategic Collaboration and Governance; Greater Hobart Transport Vision; Affordable Housing; Smart and Investment Ready City; and Gateway to Antarctica and Southern Oceans.

The Labor Party has stated it will honour the elements of any signed City Deal if the funding is allocated in the Federal Budget. Labor has also committed to consulting with communities through local governments as part of its City Partnerships program.

The City of Hobart and its neighbouring Councils have already made a significant investment in many of the focus areas. We want to work with the Australian Government and the Tasmanian Government in a strategic way to ensure that our city is sustainable, productive and liveable into the future. By working together we can ensure that Hobart grows in a way that protects the quality of life and wellbeing of our communities.

In the 2019 Federal Election we seek a commitment to fully fund a Greater Hobart City Deal and to develop the detail of the agreement in consultation with all parties to ensure that the action we take builds on our unique strengths.

2 BETTER HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Two-thirds of adult Tasmanians are overweight or obese, and more than two-thirds have sedentary lifestyles with low levels of exercise (Healthy Tasmania Five-Year Strategic Plan). Tasmania also has the oldest population and largest number of people over 65 years. The median age is 42.2 years, which is 4.9 years higher than the national average (ABS June 2017).

The City of Hobart seeks more funding to improve our facilities so we can promote better health and wellbeing by lifting participation in sport and recreation.

Improved Sporting Facilities for Women and Girls

More women and girls are participating in sport but the participation rates are still behind their male counterparts. By investing in better facilities we will encourage more women and girls to take up sporting activities and improve their health and wellbeing.

Historically, sporting facilities have been designed primarily to meet the needs of male participants with many venues not providing the range of amenities to attract and sustain female participation.

Improving facilities at clubs for female participants is a key factor in encouraging female involvement in sport and active recreation.

The City has determined a standard for changerooms which will be implemented across all our existing and new facilities.

While some grounds meet the standard, more funding is needed for the construction and refurbishment of changerooms and facilities. This includes:

- Building four new changerooms and umpires' facilities at the TCA Ground - \$5 million;
- Refurbishing existing changerooms at Clare St Oval, Domain Athletic Centre, John Turnbull Park, Queens Walk Oval, Wellesley Park, West Hobart Oval and Domain Regatta Grounds - \$1.75 million;
- Building a second set of changeroom facilities at Clare St Oval, Domain Athletic Centre, Domain Crossroads Oval, John Turnbull Park, Lower Queenborough Oval, Queens Walk Oval, Sandown Park, Wellesley Park and West Hobart Oval - \$7.1 million; and
- New facilities at Cornelian Bay and Mt Nelson Oval - \$2.65 million.

In the 2019 Federal Election we seek a commitment to \$16.5 million for the upgrade of sporting facilities in the Hobart area so that more women and girls can participate.



Redeveloping the Doone Kennedy Hobart Aquatic Centre

The Doone Kennedy Hobart Aquatic Centre (DKHAC) is a very popular community facility but at 21 years old it is due for significant redevelopment. By investing in the DKHAC we can encourage more community members to participate in health and recreation, as well as generate broad economic and tourism benefits through the hosting of large events.

Built in 1997, the DKHAC has been a popular venue for residents and visitors for two decades. In recent years annual visits have been increasing from approximately 500,000 in 2017 to 570,000 in 2018. Between 1 January and the end of March 2019, the centre has already registered 100,000 visits.

The Centre is currently below the required standard for disability access and the centre lacks sufficient space for key activities, particularly for learn to swim and water survival classes, wellness, senior and youth activities.

A redevelopment of the facility will draw more visitors and increase participation in multiple activities including rehabilitation and health, fitness and wellness programs for older members.

Over the years the Centre has hosted major national and international events including the Australian Swimming Championships, World Short Course Swimming Championships, FINA World Cup, the Pan Pacific Games, National Youth Water Polo championships, World Age Underwater Hockey Championships, and the Australian Diving Championships. These events bring significant economic benefits to the City, and a redeveloped site will open up more opportunities for Hobart as a host of world class events.

The DKHAC Master Plan was adopted by the Council in May 2017 and proposed a total redevelopment cost of \$22 million. The Council will fund \$12 million of these works. The State Government has made a funding commitment of \$3 million leaving a balance of \$7 million currently unfunded.

To create a venue fit for the next generation we are seeking a further \$7 million. This funding will build a new external, enclosed waterslide, dry diving structure and an accessible warm water pool along with other public amenity improvements such as a changing places facility (not currently provided) spa, sauna, steam room and wellness centre.

In the 2019 Federal Election we seek a commitment of \$7 million for the redevelopment of the Doone Kennedy Hobart Aquatic Centre which will be 'spade ready' by December 2019.





3 TAKING ACTION FOR A SAFER CLIMATE

The world is taking action to limit global warming to below 2 °C, and while it is a global issue, the solutions are local. Local governments play a critical role in supporting communities to respond and adapt to the changing climate. We need strong national leadership and a coordinated approach to taking action for a safer climate.

Hobart's long-term average temperatures have risen in the decades since the 1950s, at a rate of up to 0.1 °C per decade, and we've seen a decline in average annual rainfall since the mid 1970s. Hobart is likely to experience increases in the temperature of very hot days by up to 3°C. Rainfall will trend towards heavier events interspersed by longer dry periods.

These changes in climate will continue to have an impact on the City's infrastructure, roads, the local community and environment. Extended heat waves and more extreme temperatures are likely to increase the occurrence and intensity of bushfires with impacts on natural areas and the urban fringe. We also expect to experience inundation and degradation of low-lying road and stormwater assets in flood and storm surge, as well as exacerbated impact on our foreshores when flood and storm surge coincide.

The City of Hobart has been engaged in climate action for over 20 years and we will continue to consider climate change risks in strategic planning, purchasing and other decision-making relating to our programs, assets, services and communities.

We have reduced the greenhouse gas emissions from our buildings and activities by over 70% from 2000 to 2010. We are working towards a further reduction of 17% by 2020, as well as committing to reduce our energy use by 35% by next year.

To protect the health, wellbeing and resilience of our communities, we need strong leadership and a coordinated, collaborative approach between all levels of government. By working together we can ensure that our cities are strong and resilient and offer a quality of life that is enjoyed today and into the future.

To ensure we are best placed to address climate change we need:

- Formalisation of roles and responsibilities and statutory framing of responses to enable an equitable, collaborative approach that avoids duplication and mal/mis-adaptation;
- Provision of ongoing good quality science (physical and social) on which to base our decisions and mitigate exposure to potential liabilities;
- Constructive engagement between stakeholders and science to ensure effective and equitable outcomes; and
- Provision of on-ground resources to increase the capacity of local governments to improve their climate governance and resilience.

In the 2019 Federal Election the City of Hobart seeks a commitment to strong leadership on climate action, and a formal, coordinated engagement between the three levels of government to increase our climate resilience and to make the transition to a low carbon community.





4 HOBART AS A WELCOMING CITY

Our City is changing. More people are choosing to visit and to live in Hobart. We want to make sure ours continues to be a welcoming city, especially for refugees fleeing their home countries.

Each year Tasmania accepts on average 1,200 new migrants. In the 12 months to June 2017, Tasmania received over 1300 permanent migrants (Tasmanian Multicultural Policy Highlights Report 2017). Net overseas migration is now adding around 2,200 people annually to Tasmania's population with a large proportion appearing to be overseas students (Tasmania Report 2018). In 2016-17 Hobart had a net overseas migration gain of 840 people (ABS).

As a signatory to the Welcoming Cities Network the City of Hobart has undertaken to foster an environment of belonging and participation for receiving communities, as well as new and emerging communities, and we aim to increase their social cohesion, economic capability and resilience.

Our participation in the Welcoming Cities Network is consistent with the Council-endorsed Hobart: A community vision for our island capital; the Capital City Strategic Plan 2015-2025; and the City of Hobart Social Inclusion and Multicultural Strategies 2014-2019.

It also builds on the City's commitment as a Refugee Welcome Zone which is a declaration of, "Commitment in spirit to welcoming refugees into our community; upholding the human rights of refugees; demonstrating compassion for refugees; and enhancing cultural and religious diversity in our community."

In December 2018, the City announced its public support for the Amnesty International Australia campaign for an improved and expanded community sponsorship program for refugees.

There is more work to do to lift Hobart's reputation as a safe and welcoming city for international visitors, migrants and investors. Hobart would benefit from a more generous and accessible community support program for refugees. We also seek an expansion of community sponsorship and increased funding to build community infrastructure and to restart the multicultural sports grants.

In the 2019 Federal Election we seek a commitment to a more generous and accessible community support program for refugees.



5 HOBART AS A SMART CITY

As a city growing in popularity and size, Hobart will face many challenges into the future. As a Smart City we will be better prepared to manage our digital and social divides, build safer and more inclusive communities, and learn through innovation. It is time to invest so that everyone can make the most of the opportunities that technology brings.

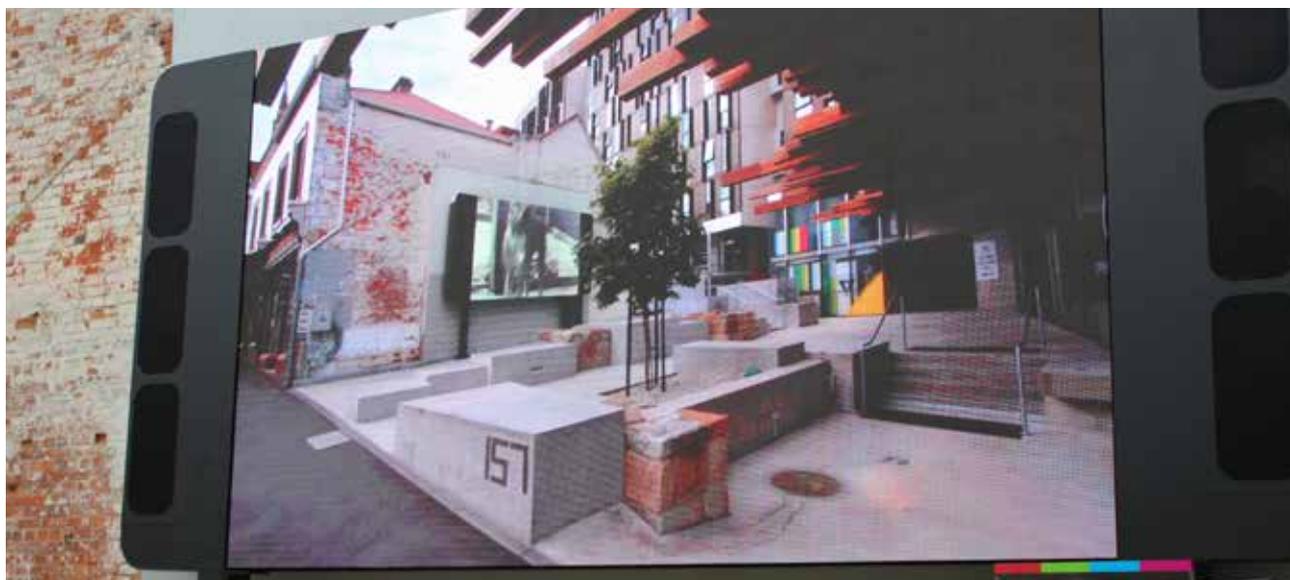
The City of Hobart is currently developing its first Smart City Strategy. The Strategy will provide a roadmap for how the City uses technology and data to better service the community's needs. It will also set out how we can improve liveability, manage resources, drive economic activity and foster innovation. We want to use technologies to work together in sharing information with the public and improving the quality and efficiency of our services.

The City has made significant investments in setting the foundations for a successful smart city journey. In its unsuccessful submission to round two of the Smart Cities and Suburbs Program, City of Hobart proposed a smart

city alliance innovation precinct that produces data to engage and unlock the potential of the whole community to interact with the city and each other. We would welcome the opportunity to make a revised submission of Connected Hobart: Innovation beyond 2020 - a model for equitable smart city development.

We support the Australian Government's Smart Cities and Suburbs Program for funding local government agencies for projects that apply innovative technology-based solutions to urban challenges to improve the liveability, productivity and sustainability of cities, suburbs and towns.

In the 2019 Federal Election the City of Hobart seeks a commitment to additional funding for the Smart Cities and Suburbs Program, and support for our revised submission.





6 MAKING THE MOST OF OUR MOUNTAIN

With Tasmania's annual tourist numbers reaching nearly 1.5 million, more and more people are visiting kunanyi / Mount Wellington. To make sure visitors are getting the most out of their experience, and that the impact on the mountain is sustainable, greater investment is needed.

Our iconic kunanyi / Mount Wellington is the third most visited attraction in Tasmania after Salamanca Market and MONA (Tasmanian Visitor Survey). The mountain hosted over 330,000 interstate and overseas visitors between July 2017 and June 2018, up 1.3% from the previous financial year. The Tasmanian Visitor Survey expects total visitor numbers (including locals) to be between 500,000 and 680,000 over five years.

The City of Hobart recognises that there is a need to provide powerful nature-based experiences on the mountain that are targeted to the discerning local, as well as national and international visitor markets. We also acknowledge that ageing facilities at the key entry points are failing the local and tourism potential of the mountain. To that end we are planning to build new a visitor centre at The Springs with facilities to include a café, toilets, picnic shelters, lookout, upgraded car park and a nature-based playground.

In 2016 the Council adopted the "One Mountain, One Destination, Three New Experiences" prospectus. This included three projects that formed the key focus of the City's program of improving the visitor experience on kunanyi / Mount Wellington.

Progress has been made on the Great Short Walk Rejuvenation project and Revealing the Mountain's Heritage, however further funding is needed to complete the works. A visitor centre at The Springs to act as a gateway for the upgraded walks has also been identified as a significant priority.

With a total of \$6.75 million the people of Hobart and visitors would benefit from:

- The mountain's first dedicated visitor centre at The Springs (\$5.25 million);
- Rebuilding the historic Zig Zag Track, part of the principal walking route from The Springs to The Pinnacle (summit) - a cost of \$750,000;
- Restoration and interpretation of the heritage-listed Pipeline Track - \$500,000;
- New toilet facilities at the Neika entry to the Pipeline Track - \$250,000.

A commitment to further funding will ensure kunanyi / Mount Wellington continues to play its vital role as a Tasmanian tourism icon, a much loved playground for locals, and as a significant contributor to the State's economic future.

In the 2019 Federal Election the City of Hobart seeks a commitment of \$6.75 million to develop components of 'One Mountain, One Destination, Three New Experiences', including The Springs visitor centre.



7 PROTECTING OUR BUILT HERITAGE

Tasmania has some of Australia's oldest and best-preserved heritage places and precincts. With over one million tourists now visiting our State each year, our heritage places are a key part of the visitor economy.

In Hobart we have some of the finest sandstone buildings in Australia, including the Town Hall, the historic waterfront warehouses along Salamanca Place and the colonial-era workers' cottages and grand homes in Battery Point.

With many significant heritage buildings in Hobart, it is important that they are maintained, conserved and protected.

We acknowledge the significant cost in preserving these assets and request that innovative models of funding be investigated. Alternative models could include the

establishment of a National Heritage Lottery Fund like that in the United Kingdom. The UK Fund covers natural, cultural and intangible heritage across the country and distributes National Lottery grants for projects that sustain and transform their heritage.

By protecting our heritage we conserve valuable community assets and ensure that these places, traditions and stories can continue to be experienced and enjoyed by future generations.

In the 2019 Federal Election the City of Hobart seeks a commitment to investigating innovative funding models, as well as resource sharing and creative partnerships that can protect and improve our heritage into the future.







8 AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOR TASMANIANS

More people want to live and work in Hobart but affordable housing is in chronic short supply. Our State's capacity to respond to the demand is hampered by our housing debt to the Australian Government. Relief of this debt would free up funding to invest in social housing. Urgent action is needed.

It is becoming more and more difficult for people to find an affordable home to rent or buy in our city. Over 37% of Tasmanians live in areas of social disadvantage and housing stress affects a quarter of the State's low income households (ABS, Census 2016). The situation is adding to the problem of homelessness with around 1,600 Tasmanians being without a home every night (Shelter Tasmania).

Rental vacancy rates across the State have eased over the last 12 months, moving from 0.4 per cent to 1 per cent. Hobart's rate, however, is currently 0.4% compared to around 2% in January 2015 (SQM Research). Rental prices in the greater Hobart area are up 9.4% on last year and in 2018 Hobart was named the "least affordable capital city in Australia" on the Rental Affordability Index.

The City's commitment to being a socially inclusive city has led us to support social

housing developments, such as Common Ground Tasmania and Housing Choices. While action is being taken by the State Government, and there is \$30 million allocated in the City Deal for affordable housing, more needs to be done to address the crisis.

Relieving Tasmania's \$157 million housing debt would free up around \$15 million each year for investment in affordable housing. This would enable the construction of new public housing properties and maintenance of existing houses, and would have a significant impact on the Housing Tasmania waiting list which is currently around 3200 people, and an average wait time of 56 weeks.

We can relieve housing stress and homelessness by providing new, appropriate housing options for people with a diverse range of incomes and needs, across all stages of life and family situations.

In the 2019 Federal Election we seek a commitment to relieve Tasmania of its \$157 million debt to the Australian Government so that funding can be invested in affordable and social housing across the State.

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