

1. City Deal for Greater Hobart

In January 2018, the Australian and Tasmanian Governments entered into an agreement with Hobart City, Clarence City, Glenorchy City and Kingborough Councils. This City Deal is a ten year commitment to address transport, affordable housing, Antarctic research and smart city program issues. I welcome the Labor party's commitment to honour the agreement resulting in the situation that no matter who holds government after May 18 the city deal should be honoured. My role therefore, if I am lucky enough to be selected by the people of Tasmania as a Tasmanian Senator is to ensure that whether a Coalition or Labor government are elected they will fulfil their commitment to the agreement!

One of my particular concerns is the issue of affordable housing. Successive Federal Governments of either persuasion have consistently failed in efforts to arrest housing concerns. At present, according to TASCOS, approximately half of the funds allocated to Tasmania by the Federal Government is taken back due to the debt owed by the State for previous housing payments. For Tasmanians this translates to lesser services as so much money is allocated to debt servicing. In addition to encouraging the government to honour this commitment I will be advocating for the State to be released from this debt with a view that funds can then flow into more services for all of Tasmania.

2. Better Health and Well Being

The Hobart City Council is seeking funding from the next Federal Government for upgrades to sporting facilities.

It is important to note that one of the key principles of the Australian Conservatives is the need for responsible Federal budgets in terms of reducing the national debt. The national debt is a significant factor in limiting available funds for the people of Australia. If it is not addressed it is highly likely that future budgets will see a lowering and lowering of funds available to the states for education and health.

Within health spending though it is recognised that the amount of money spent on preventative health programs ultimately results in less money on later health needs as people can avoid some of the problems that may arise. My background as a Radiation Therapist, working at the Royal Hobart Hospital for more than 25 years is a good example of this. Anti-smoking programs have lessened the numbers of patients needing radiation therapy for smoking related problems.

Therefore spending money on sporting facilities is actually money spent on preventative health measures, thus lowering the pressure on the health system at a later time. For this

reason I will, if I am lucky enough to be selected by the people of Tasmania as a Tasmanian Senator work for these funds to be made available.

3. Taking Action for a Safer Climate

The term “Climate Change” has unfortunately become a politicised term, creating a catch all for a group of related processes. Australians and indeed Hobartians fall into four groups when asked about this subject. Some 40% view “Climate Change” as a somewhat manmade process that can be fixed by human intervention. A further 40% view “Climate Change” as a purely natural process that has been a significant aspect in the planet’s history. Of the other 20% approximately half simply are unsure as to whether “Climate Change” is a natural or manmade issue and the other 10% simply do not believe in any form of “Climate Change.”

Of the 40% of manmade influence believers a significant portion believe that the affect is actually a combination of human behaviour and the background natural affect. Within this group of course the belief ranges from nearly 100% human caused down to only a small influence from humans. Finally, a small group advocate that not only is “Climate Change” almost 100% human driven, if no action is taken quickly the effects may be irreversible within a few short years.

Human caused CO₂ emissions is believed to be a significant “Climate Change” driver by those 40% advocating for a human influenced process. Australia’s contribution to CO₂ production emissions is around 1.5% of the total global CO₂ emissions and so Australia’s, and indeed Hobart’s effect upon this perceived issue is of course limited. Indeed the Chief Scientist is often noted as saying a reduction to 0% of Australian emissions would have no perceptible difference to the climate.

Given the fact that at least 80% of the Hobart and indeed Australian population are firmly of the belief that “Climate Change” is real, though the amount of human driven “Climate Change” belief varies, this is clearly a major issue that people feel needs attention. Whilst what causes the problem is contentious, the need for mitigation of the results of “Climate Change” is an area where most can agree attention is essential.

I welcome the Hobart City Council’s approach to bushfire mitigation strategies since regardless of whether you see this a historical issue that could be seen as a cyclic danger to the area, or feel humans have been involved in worsening this problem the reality is that firebreaks and fuel reduction strategies will reduce the severity of this problem. Further, it is essential as the Hobart City Council argue that good quality science is used to base decisions, in terms of financial commitment, on-ground resources and resilience planning. If I am in a

position to help the Council and any Tasmanian Council regarding these issues I fully commit to this service.

4. Hobart is a Welcoming City

As the husband of a migrant I have had the pleasure of being involved in migrant activities around Hobart and greater Hobart for many years. Through my interactions with Greek, Russian, Ukrainian, Vietnamese and Sri Lankan groups as well as many others, not only personally but through my health care career I have had the pleasure of meeting many of the new arrivals in Tasmania over many years.

The Australian Conservatives do have a concern with immigration numbers exceeding the capacity of Australia to adequately cater for new arrivals. Lack of development in Melbourne and Sydney to match the population increase has created sometimes antagonistic situations. Hence controlled increases in population are a good, but must be matched with developmental increases and, most importantly job opportunity increases.

The Hobart City's developments in creating a welcoming city for migrants is a positive and I commit to assisting the city, and the rest of Tasmania in creating an environment supporting job growth to match the state's commitment to developing an inclusive state. After all making more jobs available is a significant aspect of creating a truly welcoming city, both for the new arrivals and for the longer term residents.

5. Hobart as a Smart City

The smart city initiative is an excellent approach for using technology to help guide future development. If I am lucky enough to be selected by the people of Tasmania as a Tasmanian Senator I will support this for both Hobart and other areas of Tasmania.

6. Making the Most of our Mountain

Kunanyi is a wonderful tourism opportunity for Hobart and for Tasmania. Visitors to the state would no doubt wish to visit this, Port Arthur and the Cradle Mountain areas as well as our many other tourist destinations during their stay on our beautiful island. The development of the mountain is therefore a key opportunity for the City of Hobart.

Once again, as I have noted above, the Australian Conservatives are very aware of the danger of the national deficit, a deficit that if it does not result in services being reduced, may be being paid off by future generations, which is unconscionable. But, as with my view of sporting facilities as a preventative health measure, the development of the mountain can be viewed as an investment with a significant return to state in the future.

Hobart needs jobs opportunities. The growth in tourism job opportunities that can come from the development of the mountain will provide a significant advantage to Hobart and the State as the other tourist sites will no doubt experience growth in tourism and employment at the same time.

If I am lucky enough to be selected by the people of Tasmania as a Tasmanian Senator I will work to ensure this investment opportunity is realised.

7. Protecting our Built Heritage

Tasmania has some of the most wonderful built heritage in the nation. As an historian (in addition to my career in Healthcare I am a qualified historian) I have always taken an interest in the heritage of our great State and looked for methods for ensuring that our heritage is maintained, conserved and protected.

As with developments on the mountain, the maintenance of our heritage can be seen as an investment that will be realised in tourism opportunities. Churches such as Holy Trinity and the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, for example, would greatly benefit from support in order to maintain them as the historical landmarks they have become.

Not only would I seek to attain funding for maintenance of our heritage, I would if I am lucky enough to be selected by the people of Tasmania as a Tasmanian Senator work toward the development of a national lottery with the funds being made available to support this wonderful cause.

8. Affordable Housing for Tasmanians

As I noted above, one of my particular concerns is the issue of affordable housing. The nation has a constant struggle in dealing with the results of mental health issues. It is a

personal belief of mine that many of these health problems are affected by financial stress. Thus it is a health imperative to reduce financial stress in areas such as affordable housing.

Thus, as I stated above, if I am lucky enough to be selected by the people of Tasmania as a Tasmanian Senator, I will be advocating for the State to be released from this debt with a view that funds can then flow into more services for all of Tasmania.

Nigel Frame

Australian Conservatives Tasmanian Senate Candidate