

DRAFT SECOND READING SPEECH

HON PETER GUTWEIN MP

Greater Hobart Bill 2019

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Madam Speaker, I move that the Bill now be read a second time.

The Greater Hobart Bill has been developed to provide a framework to support collaborative decision making between the Clarence, Glenorchy, Hobart and Kingborough councils and the Tasmanian Government.

The legislation is a key commitment identified in the Hobart City Deal, signed on Sunday, 24 February 2019.

The focus on the central Hobart area builds on the vision identified in that partnership and will support the development of an urban overlay to complement the Southern Regional Land Use Strategy, which captures a broader range of drivers and considerations.

The Greater Hobart Bill will further the vision in the Hobart City Deal by:

- prescribing objectives that identify priority areas for collaboration
- requiring the establishment of a work program to identify actions to achieve those prescribed objectives, and
- creates governance arrangements to support the development and implementation of the work program.

The prescribed objectives will apply a whole-of-area lens, across the four municipal boundaries, to:

- strategic planning decisions
- facilitating the efficient flow of transport

- management of existing, and planning and development of new, cultural, sporting, recreational and community facilities
- encouraging urban renewal and affordable housing, that enhances amenity liveability and links to passenger transport systems
- encouraging the development of hubs and precincts such as for science, sport, recreation, social activity, economic activity, industry, education and the arts
- integration of the above objectives to provide for co-location, and with transport and service infrastructure.

While the Bill has been prepared with a focus on central Hobart, it also specifically includes an opt-in mechanism. This will enable any council in the southern region to be invited to be part of the work program and support the implementation of specific actions.

Importantly, this will be at the discretion of the invited council.

The process to develop this Bill has been collaborative.

At the end of 2017, the then Lord Mayor, now Madam Speaker, wrote to the Premier on behalf the Clarence, Glenorchy, Hobart and Kingborough councils proposing the establishment of a legislative framework to support collaboration.

The Premier supported this suggestion, noting the Government's intent to pursue the proposal as part of the suite of initiatives being progressed through the development of the Hobart City Deal.

This commitment was reflected in the final Hobart City Deal, signed on Sunday, 24 February 2019.

However, work to develop a Greater Hobart Bill commenced shortly after the Heads of Agreement to progress a City Deal for Hobart was signed with the Australian Government in January 2018.

A dedicated working group was established in early 2018 comprising:

- the Secretary of the Department of State Growth (Chair)

- the CEO of Infrastructure Tasmania
- the general managers of the four councils, and
- Australian Government representatives.

Supported by this forum, the Greater Hobart Bill has been collaboratively drafted at all stages. This includes from the early scoping to determine the approach and structure of the Bill to throughout the drafting process.

Those meetings are continuing to support the development of regulations that will help guide the Greater Hobart Committee and Greater Hobart Advisory Group established through the Bill, and to prepare material to support the development of the work program.

This work undertaken by senior officers was also supported by formal engagement with councils.

Following the resolution of the October 2018 local government elections, I wrote to the Lord Mayor and Mayors of the twelve southern councils to provide a copy of the Draft Bill and to seek feedback. Nearly seven weeks was provided (6 November to 21 December) to ensure all councils had time to consider the Bill.

The feedback received through this process was considered by the joint Australian, Tasmanian and local government working group, which informed my further amendments to the legislation. The final Bill was provided back to the working group for a final review before my subsequent tabling of the Bill in this House.

Madam Speaker, this legislation provides a shared way forward. It has been collaboratively drafted, and will provide a forward looking work program to support shared approach to strategic decision making and planning in the central Hobart area.

Madam Speaker, I commend this Bill to the House.