

PRESS RELEASE

Issued Jointly by
Doug Parkinson MLC and Allison Ritchie MLC
(and forwarded to the Lord Mayor by letter)
4 October 2005

We wish to bring to your attention the issue of the opening hours of the Argyle Street Car Park operated by the Hobart City Council.

The two hospitals immediately opposite the car park (the Hobart Private and Royal Hobart) have visiting hours which extend to at least 8.00pm and later than the car park opening hours.

Since the reduction in operating hours at the Argyle Street Car Park visitors and outpatients have been forced to use the privately operated and geographically removed car park in Market Place.

Many constituents from southern Tasmania have indicated levels of dissatisfaction about having to have to walk to or from Market Place late at night. This has a particular impact on the frail elderly and those with babies and the difficulties faced are worse in bad weather.

We understand that this situation has been exacerbated by the current redevelopment underway at the Royal Hobart Hospital that has removed the five-minute drop off section for those collecting or delivering patients and visitors to the hospital and closed the parking "circle" in front of the hospital.

Notwithstanding the redevelopment, we both feel that this issue still represents an ongoing

concern to our constituents with concern voiced before the commencement of the redevelopment.

For this reason, we request your urgent attention to this matter and hope that consideration can be given to extending the opening hours of the Argyle Car Park, at least to times consistent with the visiting hours at the nearby hospitals.

Thank you for your assistance with this matter and we look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely



Hon. Allison Ritchie, MLC
MEMBER FOR PEMBROKE



Hon. Doug Parkinson, MLC
MEMBER FOR WELLINGTON