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BATTERY POINT/FORESHORE DEVELOPMENT

Recent attempts by Aldermen Briscoe and Freeman to resurrect the Battery Point foreshore access debate are nothing more than a pre City Council election stunt (due in October).

The same Aldermen raised the same issue before the last City Council election and the result will be substantially the same, because all of the issues have already been dealt with.

Under the guise of citizens rights these people want ratepayers to pay for an expensive roadway around Battery Point ostensibly so that the public can walk or ride around this foreshore.

What Messrs Briscoe and Freeman are not telling people is that once public money is allocated to a structure sufficient to satisfy all requirements, it would become, a foreshore development involving huge cost, over both private and Crown land.

Any such structure would need to be above the high water and high wave-action marks and would need to be wide enough for access by emergency services.

Of course, by infilling the foreshore, doing away with the working slip-ways, removing the private jetties, and compulsorily acquiring private land, a whole new promenade/roadway could be built around Battery Point to allow access to everyone; but at what cost to ratepayers and for what general public benefit when there is already access through Battery Point to Marieville Esplanade? No wonder the State Government has declined involvement.

And Council's proponents of this nonsense are the same people who have presided over the failure to develop the Cornelian Bay foreshore over many years.

The regeneration of the Cornelian Bay beach and foreshore area represents a plan of huge potential public benefit.

This area would service the suburbs of Glebe, North Hobart, Mt Stuart, Lenah Valley, New Town, Lutana and Moonah, or about half the Hobart City Council's ratepayers (and some of the Glenorchy Council's ratepayers).

A number of detailed studies have already been done on Cornelian Bay over the past eight years but no progress; why?

My theory is that too many Aldermen are too interested in the "big end of town"; for example spending \$millions acquiring bushland on Mt Nelson – as if Hobart isn't surrounded by enough bushland already?

Then there is the recent announcement of \$5.5 million for redevelopment of the beach at Lower Sandy Bay; an area very well serviced already!

I say wake-up Councillors and start thinking of all ratepayers and stop trying to interfere with the quiet enjoyment of the backyard owners on the Battery Point foreshore.