

## **SECOND READING SPEECH**

### **Sullivans Cove Waterfront Authority Repeal Bill 2011**

I move - that the Bill now be read for the second time.

The purpose of the Bill is to repeal the *Sullivans Cove Waterfront Authority Act 2004* and return planning and development regulation in Sullivans Cove to the Hobart City Council.

This Bill brings the winding up of the Sullivans Cove Waterfront Authority forward from 2015 to 31 August 2011, or such later date as is proclaimed.

The Sullivans Cove Waterfront Authority was established for a 10 year period in April 2005.

It assumed responsibility for planning and other elements of development regulation that had, until that time, been carried out by the Hobart City Council.

The establishment of the Authority was a way of focusing greater attention on the strategic development of Hobart's waterfront and promoting high quality design outcomes in an area widely recognised as having very special characteristics.

At the time the Authority was established, a number of strategically important sites in Sullivans Cove were underutilised.

The introduction of the Authority facilitated the strategic redevelopment of several of these sites and the realisation of high quality design outcomes across the Cove.

During the life of the Authority, major developments such as the redevelopment of Princes Wharf No.1 Shed into an events venue and a new research and education facility for the Institute of Marine

and Antarctic Studies (IMAS) on the Princes Wharf No.2 site have been approved.

Developments such as these have the capacity to bring more people to Sullivans Cove and invigorate wider investment and improvement in the area.

I commend the Authority for being a custodian of Sullivans Cove and ensuring that each new development has added value to this special place.

One of the Cove's distinguishing characteristics is the way it continues to be used for a working port, yet, at the same time, it is a popular public space where people come to enjoy the waterfront.

Deliberate intervention has been required to balancing the operational needs of the port, while accommodating use of Sullivans Cove as a public space for civic events and for people to gather.

The Authority has worked closely with Tasports on a program of public space improvements for Franklin Wharf to establish a shared space that can accommodate all its various users.

Though modest in scale, the improvements are a successful complement to the gradual but continual process of change in Sullivans Cove.

They improve pedestrian amenity and safety, and retain the open quality of the wharf apron so it can be used not only as part of the working port but also for public events.

Sullivans Cove is close to the hearts of all Tasmanians and there has been a high level of interest in the Authority since it commenced a little over six years ago.

The Authority has fulfilled its goal of giving greater design consideration to planning matters by having available to it an expert Design Panel.

It has also provided wide opportunities for input into planning matters. These are not insignificant achievements.

Since the preparation of the Sullivans Cove Master Plan in 2010 by the State Architect, in consultation with Tasports, the Hobart City Council and other key stakeholders, the Government has, agreed in-principle that planning and development regulation should be returned to the Hobart City Council.

The Master Plan was needed to give overarching context to the future development of the Cove. Now that it is completed, the Government and the public can have greater confidence that this iconic place will be developed in a strategic and sustainable way, allowing future generations of Tasmanians to appreciate and more fully utilise the Cove.

This Government recognises that the regulation of planning and development is essentially a local government function.

Over the last year, the Council has commenced a substantial planning initiative to develop an Inner City Development Plan which encompasses not only the city centre but also extends to the waterfront.

The Government believes that it is vitally important for the city to be managed as whole and for Hobart to establish planning and urban design goals that are commensurate with its capital city status.

This Bill to repeal the *Sullivans Cove Waterfront Authority Act 2004* will have the effect of returning planning and building regulation in Sullivans Cove to the Hobart City Council.

Any minor matters of an administrative and practical nature will be agreed between me as Minister for Planning on behalf of the Government and the Hobart City Council in a Memorandum of Understanding.

Mr Speaker, I commend the Bill to the House.