



1 October 2019

The Secretary
Legislative Council Select Committee
Greater Hobart Traffic Congestion
Parliament House
HOBART TAS 7000

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SELECT COMMITTEE GREATER HOBART TRAFFIC CONGESTION

We refer to the Terms of Reference for the above Inquiry and have prepared this joint submission for your consideration.

As you would be aware, our councils are signatories to the Hobart City Deal and The Implementation Plan was considered and approved by our respective councils in late September.

The Greater Hobart Mayors' Forum is firmly of the view that our communities expect the Hobart City Deal to deliver primarily on addressing the infrastructure challenges relating to traffic congestion, affordable housing, and urban renewal.

We have a range of projects which could be delivered through an enhanced Hobart City Deal that would meet community expectations and provide important strategic investment in much needed transport and mobility infrastructure. Please see the attached table. We would welcome the opportunity to further discuss these projects with you.

In particular, the Greater Hobart Mayors are concerned about the viability of the Bridgewater Bridge Project ("Derwent River Crossing Capacity Project") following the release of Infrastructure Australia's Project Evaluation Summary of 13 June 2019. The report can be accessed on Infrastructure Australia's website - https://www.infrastructureaustralia.gov.au/sites/default/files/2019-08/derwent_river_crossing_capacity_-_evaluation_summary.pdf

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It should be noted that this analysis post-dated the councils signing the City Deal.

As the largest funded project within the City Deal, we are concerned that the Infrastructure Australia report highlights significant limitations of the Bridgewater Bridge project, including:

- Further geotechnical work is required;
- A significant risk of cost increases due to the need to redesign to comply with new standards and appropriate construction methods;
- Underestimation of the cost associated with decommissioning the existing bridge, including complications with the heritage values;
- The risk of seismic activity has been espoused as a central component for the business case, however it has not been quantified;
- Unquantified maritime benefits for a higher clearance;
- A lack of strategic plan for industrial, commercial, or transport users of the river;
- Slightly increased travel distances for vehicles;
- Other options were not put forward by the State Government for consideration despite their apparent higher BCR and lower cost; and
- The costs associated with the preferred option (Option 2) outweigh the benefits.

Please also note that elected members from our councils were provided a briefing from Infrastructure Australia on Monday 16 September prior to each council's formal consideration of the Implementation Plan.

We believe that there ought to be an opportunity to consider the assessment of Infrastructure Australia and revise the Bridgewater Bridge proposal to provide for a less expensive solution that matches the project's expected benefits. There is currently a funding commitment of \$576 million to the project under the City Deal. A revised project could cost a fraction of that and achieve a saving that could be reinvested into the attached strategic infrastructure priorities, ensuring that the needs and expectations of the communities are fully met with no additional funding required.

We are also concerned that Metro Tasmania has run at a significant loss over the last few years and cannot meet peak demand. It is our submission that an urgent review of Metro's funding and services in order to meet demand, is required.

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We would welcome the opportunity to meet with the Committee to discuss how best to meet the needs of our communities and address the strategic transport infrastructure challenges that we face in the future. We look forward to an opportunity to discuss this further with you at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely



Lord Mayor of Hobart
Cr Anna Reynolds



Mayor of Glenorchy
Ald Kristie Johnston



Mayor of Kingborough
Cr Dean Winter

Attachment 1: Greater Hobart Strategic Infrastructure Priorities

Greater Hobart Strategic Infrastructure Priorities

Hobart City Deal Focus Area	Project	Description
Greater Hobart Transport Vision <i>We will improve southern access – Fifth lane on the Southern Outlet</i>	Southern Outlet – additional lane from Tolmans Hill to Firthside	<p>Stage 2 of the State Government’s plan to develop an additional northbound lane on the southern outlet. The lane would be a T3 or bus-only lane aimed to promote public transport and carpooling across the Kingborough and Huon Valley region, planning for significant growth planned south of Hobart.</p> <p>Stage 1 adds a lane from Tolmans Hill to the city. Stage 2 would see complete the additional northbound lane from Firthside to Tolmans Hill.</p>
Greater Hobart Transport Vision <i>We will improve southern access – Kingston congestion package</i>	Sandfly Road-Huon Highway intersection upgrade	<p>The Huon Highway is an important road connecting community, industry and visitors to the Huon Valley. At the intersection with Sandfly Road, the Huon Highway passes next to the fast-growing Kingborough municipality, with Sandfly Road being a key link between the Huon and Channel region. The existing intersection has a history of crashes, leading to a popular commitment from the Hodgman Government at the 2018 election. There is community concern that not enough funding has been allocated to upgrade the intersection and that a fuller response, incorporating investment from the Australian Government, would allow for a safer intersection.</p>
Greater Hobart Transport Vision <i>We will establish a Derwent Ferry Service</i>	Derwent Ferry Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Terminal, bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure on both sides of the river.
Greater Hobart Transport Vision <i>We will improve northern access – Northern Suburbs Transit Corridor</i> Activating the Northern Suburbs Transit Corridor	Hobart to Bridgewater Passenger Rail	<p>Passenger service operating from Hobart to Bridgewater along the existing rail corridor, facilitating and supporting significant new and existing investment in transit-oriented development, and alleviating traffic congestion on the Main Road and Brooker Highway corridors.</p>

Hobart City Deal Focus Area	Project	Description
<p>Greater Hobart Transport Vision <i>We will implement Smart Traffic Management Solutions</i></p> <p><i>We will enhance user experience on, and encourage the uptake of, public transport</i></p>	<p>Bus Infrastructure Upgrades</p>	<p>Enhance user experiences for public transport users in Greater Hobart by the provision of new bus shelters across greater Hobart, including smart technology allowing for real time information about upcoming bus location, including delays and accessibility. This would align with Metro Tasmania’s asset renewal plan, encouraging more public transport use and reducing traffic congestion.</p> <p>Additional bus fleet Metro electrification trials</p>
<p>Greater Hobart Transport Vision We will support connectivity and accessibility for pedestrians and cyclists</p>		<p>Separated cycle ways in metro areas across Greater Hobart Pedestrian and cycling bridges (Lower Collins Street to Macquarie Point and Cleary’s Gates)</p>
		<p>Total Estimated Additional Funding Required \$367 million or less</p>