



CITY OF HOBART

MINUTES ATTACHMENTS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

MONDAY, 20 NOVEMBER 2017

AT 7.30 PM

LORD MAYOR'S COURT ROOM, TOWN HALL

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4.1 The Lord Mayor's address in respect to the 2016/2017 Annual Report

Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to the 2017 Annual General Meeting of the Hobart City Council.

The purpose of tonight's meeting is to consider and formally adopt the 2016/2017 Annual Report for the City of Hobart. This report details the activities and financial performance of the Council during the year of review.

On behalf of my Aldermanic colleagues, General Manager and Council staff, I wish to thank you for your interest in the activities of our organisation and for attending tonight's meeting.

It now gives me great pleasure to highlight key achievements which demonstrate the breadth of Council's services within the City of Hobart.

- The Council turned over in excess of \$133 million in 2016/17. We invested \$11.2 million in new assets and \$20.8 million in replacement assets. Taking into account the many competing demands of our community and the management of the city, we recorded a fifth consecutive underlying surplus of \$1.14 million.
- This result demonstrates this Council's commitment to ensure its long-term financial sustainability.
- In 2016/2017, we delivered a conservative rate increase of 2.25 per cent to fund the increased cost of delivery services that meet the expectation of the community.
- In the year under review, we rolled out the first year of our capital works program, *Transforming Hobart*.
- I've said it previously and will reiterate it, I am very proud of this Council for making they very bold decision as to approve an unprecedented 10-year, \$300 million capital works program.
- Hobart is a capital city and a 10-year capital works program is a huge investment in the City's future. I believe that the completed projects starting to come on line as a result of this plan, have brought the Council together, proven beneficial for the city, embraced by Council officers and staff and given the Council focus.

- All my aldermanic colleagues and all Council officers should be really proud of what we have achieved. We have not only looked ahead and planned for managing our assets and future facilities and infrastructure, we also have a strategy in place to ensure our plan can be funded.
- This program sees us building and improving roads, parks and playgrounds, suburban retail precincts, leisure facilities, community buildings and other public infrastructure including toilets in every suburb of our Council area.
- Being a responsible Council, we are future-proofing our assets for future generations, so this program also fully funds all maintenance to our extensive stormwater system, 280kms of roads and 400kms of footpaths, for the decade.
- The Council has \$1.8 billion in physical assets and it is important that each generation sustains the quality of these through investing in their maintenance, rather than allowing them to deteriorate and become a financial drain borne through higher rates.
- *Transforming Hobart* also covers updating many of our public facilities including the City Hall, our Doone Kennedy Hobart Aquatic Centre, our 144 parks, gardens and open space areas, our 4500ha of bushland reserves and our 26 sporting grounds and the 94 toilet facilities that we care for.
- During the past year, we have undertaken some significant projects, all designed to improve our public realm.
- The Hobart Rivulet Park was upgraded with the sealing of a 250 metre section of the pathway, new low-level lighting was installed to improve dark spots along the path, new park furniture was also installed, and a new, raised pedestrian crossing at the intersection of Gore and McKellar streets was built.
- The Hobart waterfront renewal project has greatly improved the amenity of our waterfront and has successfully transformed this precinct into a people place.
- The quality and comfort of the new public spaces and the prioritisation of pedestrian movement has reignited community pride in the waterfront area.
- The promenade welcomes visitors, encourages social interaction and supports local businesses, community events and festivals.
- This amazing project was recently recognised by the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects taking out the Civic Landscape Award of Excellence and by the Planning Institute of Australia by taking out a Tasmanian award for Planning Excellence.
 - We are immensely proud of our officers who not only designed the entire project but also manufactured and installed many of the elements in the space.
- Works commenced on the refurbishment of Sandy Bay's retail precinct. This project is set to deliver significant improvements to the appearance and amenity of the area and provide a fresh, contemporary look and feel to the street.
- We are very, very close to completion and as such, can see that this upgrade has created a vibrant, social, main street and will enhance the quality meeting and dining space that is currently available for the community.

- A critical element of this project has been engaging with the businesses, traders and local community. It has been wonderful to have engaged people wanting to be part of delivering improvements to their local area.
- As part of the Council's *One Mountain, One Destination, Three new visitor experiences*, we commenced the first of three planned projects on kunanyi / Mount Wellington, rejuvenating the great short walk.
 - We are returning the iconic Organ Pipes and Pinnacle walking tracks to their original condition and popularity of their 1930s heyday.
- Other works on the mountain this year have included upgrading walking tracks, installing new tables and chairs at the Springs, as well as an upgrade to the chalet day hut in readiness for summer.
- A refurbishment of Ancanthe Park was also undertaken and yesterday we held a highly-successful family fun day for the community to celebrate with us and come and experience their new park. It was a great afternoon.
- With the Ancanthe Park refurbishment, the Council wanted to improve the amenity and visitor experience of the park, whilst maintaining and enhancing the park's cultural heritage and environmental values.
- The improvements included upgrading the entrance, a new bus shelter, enhancing landscaping to improve access and feature the Museum, as well as the construction of a new public toilet.
- Our capital works program also delivers improvements and enhancements across the whole city to ensure a well presented, clean and safe city for all.
- Ongoing maintenance of our city streets, resurfacing roads and footpaths, the ongoing refurbishment of our entire public toilet network and city cleaning and asset renewal continued at a high-standard.
- As part of the Council's Public Toilet Strategy approved in early 2016, we continue to completely refurbish or replace our public conveniences. To date, we have completed 23 refurbishments and constructed four new or replacement facilities.
- Public conveniences make such a positive contribution to public spaces and as a Council, we want to ensure that our residents and visitors to the City are provided with facilities that are of a high-standard, are accessible and at suitable locations.
- Our economic renaissance is continuing with the most significant public and private investment occurring in this City in a quarter of a century.
- It is therefore incumbent upon us to keep pace and continue investing in building and improving our public realm.
- In the year under review, the Council approved 908 development applications worth a total of \$252 million.
- During the year, we called for tenders to replace our current on-street parking meters and voucher machines to make it easier for motorists to pay for parking.

- Our current equipment is due for replacement so we will be installing a new integrated-parking system comprising 370 multi-payment option parking metres and up to 2000 in-ground parking sensors capable of monitoring parking space usage in all meter and voucher parking spaces.
- I am very pleased to say that we are commencing testing on the new equipment this week at a test site and in early 2018, will be rolling out our new system right across the city. I don't think we were brave enough to do this prior to Christmas!!
- The new meters are customer-friendly and will take payment by a mobile app, credit card and cash. The mobile device app will allow for a reminder to be set to help avoid car parking fines when the meter expires.
- We are continuously enhancing our reputation as a sustainable city through our work on resilience to climate change, supporting energy efficiency and reducing carbon emissions.
- The Hobart City Council is the most environmentally conscious council in the State. We recently installed solar panels on nine of the City's sites with another two to be completed this year.
- The sites include offices, works depots, halls and sporting facilities and our multi-storey carparks. The largest site is the Doone Kennedy Hobart Aquatic Centre which had a system of 100kW but has now been expanded to a total of 402kW with 1,442 panels - the largest single installation in southern Tasmania!
- The electricity expected to be generated across all of the sites is about 650,000 kWh [kilowatt hours] per year or enough for about 85 houses and is equivalent to about six per cent of the city's electricity use. The cost savings are expected to be about \$90,000 per year.
- The Hobart City Council also delivers the state's best waste and recycling services and this year, introduced a new kerbside green waste collection service. Over the year, we have emptied 170,637 bins for a total of 3036.39 tonne of material diverted away from landfill and had an additional 1185 residents opt into the service.
- I am proud to report that our city cleansing program makes us a leader in local government for the state with two full time crews that are out and about every day looking out for and removing graffiti.
- The Council is responsible for an extensive network of roads and footpaths, including:
 - More than 280 kilometres of sealed roads
 - Over 5 kilometres of unsealed roads
 - More than 400 kilometres of footpaths (predominantly comprised of asphalt and concrete); and
 - 67 bridges (comprised mainly of concrete and steel structures).
- During the year, we continued our very active program of managing the safe and efficient movement of traffic and pedestrians throughout our city, as well as ensuring our assets are well maintained.

- Early in the year under review, the city experienced a significant disruption with the Myer construction site flooding. The Council felt strongly, the need to support the city traders and working closely with many of the small businesses, we created *Super Sidewalk Saturday*.
- It was a fabulous event with tens of thousands of people descending on Hobart for the day to support our local businesses. There were bargains galore for shoppers and the city came alive with amazing entertainment for all ages. Families with young children were treated to Ben and Holly from ABC television, which was a massive hit!
- Another highlight of the past year was the celebrations held for the 150th Anniversary of the Hobart Town Hall.
- In 1866, the Town Hall was opened by a grand ball attended by 1130 guests and it went from dusk to dawn, so it was only fitting that we celebrated the Town Hall's 150th birthday on the 25 September 2016 with a great celebration, which we did!
- The community was invited to an open day. We opened the Town Hall to the public and it was really surprising that many Hobartians had never seen our beautiful ballroom or the chandeliers.
- Around 5,000 people attended a street party that saw a day of entertainment, food trucks and children's activities. A popular activity was climbing aboard our magnificently restored historical trams.
- During the year, we continued to deliver our important community and cultural programs. Our Youth Arts and Recreation Centre continued to focus on youth development programs to engage young people in community arts, cultural activities and events. Activating public spaces with performances and cultural events and activities for young people such as the highly-successful digital arts festival Light up the Lane was a highlight of the past year.
- Our officers continued their valuable work to implement a range of initiatives and programs that support and encourage positive ageing with many activities taking place at Mathers House for older people to meet, eat, chat and participate in a wide variety of activities and events.
- While the weather wasn't always on our side, we delivered another successful Taste of Tasmania that saw 207,000 visitations with 42 per cent of visits being from interstate or international visitors.
- Our Salamanca Market took out the Gold award in the Major Festivals and Events category at the 2016 Tasmania Tourism Awards and while not in the year under review, we also took out the Gold award in the same category this year and a silver award in the Major Tourist Attraction category.
- These awards represent the pinnacle in industry recognition for outstanding business practices in tourism and it is an outstanding achievement and due recognition for what is arguably one of Australia's most recognised and enduring markets.
- The creativity, passion and commitment that over 300 stallholders and hard-working Council staff put in week after week has helped to make Salamanca Market the most visited tourism attraction in Tasmania.

- We continued to build on our strong international relationships with the Chinese cities of Xi'an and Fuzhou. We welcomed a delegation of 28 government, cultural and business officials from the City of Fuzhou in late 2016 and signed a friendship city agreement with Fuzhou in January.
- In the spirit of the Friendship City Agreement we were delighted to host a Council officer, Zhu, Dongmei (Lydia) from Fuzhou for a six-month placement at the City of Hobart.
- The placement offered Lydia the opportunity expand her knowledge and cultural awareness of Hobart to take back to Fuzhou and provided our Council officers with a wealth of information about Fuzhou and Chinese culture.
- This year also saw us celebrating some significant milestones with our sister cities of Yaizu and L'Aquila. 2017 marked 40 years of friendship with Yaizu and 20 years of friendship with L'Aquila.
- The Council's project to deliver an integrated, computerise business system across the organisation continued to gain momentum. We are looking to move to a highly standardised business system that will bring consistency of approach and efficiencies to all areas of our operation.
- Looking toward the future, the City of Hobart will have highly-integrated and contemporary systems to meet the expectations of the community.
- In the year under review, we selected as our new technical partner, Open Office, as their products provide a strong customer focus and will help the Council to achieve its vision of 'making it easy to do business with us'.
- As part of the project, we built a new City of Hobart website and ultimately we will replace our finance and asset management system, amongst others, and introduce a new customer service request system allowing us to deliver enhanced customer services to our community.
- I would like to take a moment now to acknowledge the achievements of a community member here this evening, Mr Leo Foley.
- Leo recently received Honorary Life Membership of the Council of Hobart Community Associations for his outstanding contribution to his community.
- Leo has served his community as a member of various community groups and community associations and as a Hobart City Council Alderman.
- Leo joins fellow honorary life member of 2014, Mr Kevin Wilson also with us this evening. You both should be proud of your achievements and thank you for your passion, tireless work and dedication to the Hobart community over many years.
- The Council welcomed the Prime Minister's announcement in November 2016 that the Australian Government would be interested in considering a City Deal for Hobart.
- The Council and the Southern Tasmanian Councils Authority have identified an area where we believe the opportunities are the greatest and where significant benefits to not only Hobart but Tasmania will flow. The Council is a strong supporter of the University of Tasmania's STEM proposal being the centrepiece of a City Deal.

- To progress this opportunity, there has been discussions with the Federal Assistant Minister for Cities and Digital Transformation and now, the Council is seeking State Government support for this proposal and to discuss other priority projects that could make a City Deal for Hobart and produce significant results for the City.
- During the latter part of the year, the Council was criticised for taking a stand on important social issues such as marriage equality and considering a change to the date of recognition of Australia Day. Many said these issues were outside of the remit of the Council and cited that 'roads, rates and rubbish' were the areas that the Council should focus on.
- The three Rs and other services form a significant part of council core business but the archaic view of local government being confined to the three Rs is long gone, in both practice and in terms of what communities expect.
- The Council believes in social inclusion and equality for all. We are active in many social services to make our city more inclusive including programs for youth, aged care, migrants, the LGBTIQ community, the homeless, disadvantaged, and people with disabilities.
- Our Council is a progressive council of which I am very proud to be a part of and surely the role of Local Government, being closest to the community, is to represent and support its community's aspirations.
- The Hobart City Council will continue its efforts to build a socially inclusive city and defend our position to take a leadership role on these issues.
- In closing, I wish to thank my aldermanic colleagues and commend the General Manager, Executive Leadership Team and Council staff for their collective dedication, professionalism and enthusiasm over the past 12 months.

Thank you.