



CITY OF HOBART

MINUTES ATTACHMENT

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Monday, 19 November 2018

AT 7:30 PM

VENUE: TOWN HALL BALLROOM, TOWN HALL

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4.1 The Lord Mayor's address in respect to the 2017/2018 Annual Report

Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to the 2018 Annual General Meeting of the Hobart City Council.

The purpose of tonight's meeting is to consider and formally adopt the 2017/2018 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.

I would also like to take this opportunity to recognise the contribution of the former Lord Mayors Alderman Sue Hickey and Alderman Ron Christie who were the serving Lord Mayors for the 2017/2018 financial year and former Aldermen for this period.

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 \$138 million in 2017/18. We invested \$12.8 million in new assets and \$30.3 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 \$3.7 million.
- The Council approved a rate increase 3.25 per cent to fund the increased cost of delivering services to meet community expectations.
- We continued our journey of transforming Hobart into a more dynamic and liveable city that people are proud to call home, to work in and visit.
- We delivered on year two of the Council's ten-year capital works program that is designed to build and improve the city's roads, parks and playgrounds, suburban shopping precincts, leisure facilities, community buildings and other public infrastructure.
- During the past year, we have commenced or completed some significant projects.
- Works commenced on the Augusta Road shopping village in Lenah Valley to improve the quality of the streetscape and pedestrian amenity, and to provide a vibrant, accessible and attractive social space for the community.

- The upgrade has since been completed and has resulted in a wider footpath on the south side of Augusta Road, new paving, new street lighting, improved pedestrian crossing points, new seats, public art, bike racks and an uphill bike lane.
- Work also commenced on the construction of two pedestrian bridges:
 - The first is The Bridge of Remembrance, to span the Tasman Highway which will reconnect the Cenotaph to Soldiers Memorial Avenue and provide a much needed, safe and all-abilities pedestrian link from Hobart's key tourist precinct to a major city park — the 230 hectares of Domain parkland.
 - The second, is an all-ability accessible, well-lit and safe bicycle and pedestrian bridge over the Brooker Avenue linking the city centre from Bathurst Street to the Queens Domain sporting and recreation facilities, as well as to the Glebe residential area.
- The John Turnbull dog park was constructed and is proving hugely popular with the community.
- Works also commenced on a suite of projects in the Kemp Street area to provide more modern public facilities and an improved shared-use public street space.
 - Some of the works include new public toilet facilities, a large parenting room, a new pedestrian access from Argyle Street to the car park lift and stair lobby and the replacement of garbage skips with a high-tech underground compaction system.
- During the year we continued our very active program of ensuring our assets are well-maintained, including our 144 parks, gardens and open space areas, 26 sporting grounds, more than 4500 hectares of bushland reserves and our extensive network of roads, footpaths and bridges.
- Our capital works program also delivers improvements across the whole municipal area to ensure a well-presented, clean and safe city. Our ongoing maintenance program of city streets, resurfacing roads and footpaths continued, as well as the commitment to refurbishing our entire public toilet network.
- During 2017/18, the Council embarked on the most extensive community engagement process that it has ever undertaken - a community vision for Hobart.

- The project had more than 1,100 contributions through in-depth interviews, a City Forum, surveys, pop-ups, stakeholder workshops and a community panel.
- The completed vision — Hobart: A community vision for our island capital will be brought to life over the coming 12 months with the new Council's development and implementation of a ten-year strategic plan, with the community vision framing what the community wants for the city and the strategic plan setting out how the Council will respond to those aspirations.
- As a Council, we want to place community engagement at the core of every project. We want to understand the views, needs, issues and aspirations of the community and balance these with budgetary and legislative constraints so we can make informed decisions.
- To help achieve this aim, we reviewed our community engagement framework. We wanted to ensure that our engagement activities are inclusive and accessible to all members of the community and feedback from the community is listened to, respected and taken into consideration.
- During the year, we continued to deliver our important community and cultural programs throughout Hobart with specific programs designed for young people, older people, children and families, people with a disability and our culturally and linguistically diverse people.
- Our waste and recycling programs and services resulted in more than 1.5 million bin lifts to provide waste, recycling and green waste collection services to Hobart.
- We diverted 41 per cent of waste received at McRobies Gully tip from landfill, diverted 3000 tonnes of green waste from landfill and processed 8000 tonnes of green waste into mulch and compost.
- The Council is rightly very proud of its reputation as a sustainable city through its work on resilience to climate change, supporting energy efficiency and reducing carbon emissions.
- During the year, we continued to roll out energy efficiency initiatives including more solar panels on the Doone Kennedy Hobart Aquatic Centre and across several city-owned buildings. We upgraded lighting to LED in the Trafalgar Car Park and the cardinal lights in Mawson Place.
- Several other projects commenced in 2017/2018 including a project to ban single-use plastic takeaway food packing as well as a review of the Council's Climate Change Strategy.
- As part of a review of the Council's Investment and Borrowing Policy and after a phase-in period, the Council also committed to completely divesting its investments from financial institutions that fund the fossil fuel industry.

- December 2017 saw the first year of community Christmas Carols events held throughout the municipal area. The Council approved grants totalling nearly \$50,000 to a range of community groups to hold Christmas Carols events.
- We wanted to support community-run Christmas Carols and provide community groups the opportunity to deliver a community style event in their local area.
- All events were very successful with people coming out in force to support the strong tradition of families coming together with the community to enjoy a most-loved Christmas tradition.
- A new signature Christmas tree was installed on the waterfront in Mawson Place and the community was invited to a 'Light up the Tree' event which we hope will become a new City of Hobart tradition. This year's lighting of the tree is scheduled for Friday 30 November at Mawson Place.
- The 2017 Taste of Tasmania saw a revitalised festival with a new Festival Director at the helm. Visitors to the Taste were treated to a revamped layout, an expanded entertainment program, 78 stalls with representation from right around the state, including 21 new stalls. We now look forward to the 30th Anniversary of the Taste next month.
- During this last year, we continued our discussions with the Tasmanian and Australian Governments on a 'City Deal'. In January 2018, the Prime Minister and the Premier signed a 'Heads of Agreement' document designed to accelerate a City Deal of Hobart. The Heads of Agreement outlines the priority areas that will be developed in preparation for the final City Deal.
- A Hobart City Deal will mean that significant benefits will flow to the cities of Greater Hobart and the entire southern region. It will also provide the focus needed to ensure that the Australian, Tasmanian and local governments are all working together to ensure the Greater Hobart area benefits from the city's transition.
- I, and my aldermanic colleagues look forward to working with other Councils and both levels of government to advance a city deal for Hobart.
- In closing, I wish to also commend the General Manager, Nick Heath, Executive Leadership Team and city staff for their collective dedication, professionalism and enthusiasm over the past 12 months.

Thank you.