

# CITY OF HOBART

## Advocacy Priorities

### 2024–25





## Acknowledgement of Country

In recognition of the deep history and culture of our city, we acknowledge Tasmanian Aboriginal people as the Traditional Custodians of this land. We acknowledge the determination and resilience of the Palawa people who have survived invasion and dispossession and continue to maintain their identity, culture and rights.

We recognise that we have much to learn from Aboriginal people today, who represent the world's oldest continuing culture. We pay our sincere respects to Elders past and present and to all Aboriginal people living in and around Hobart.

Picture: Moon Cheese Studio/Brand Tasmania

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## **Disclaimer: Costings and Financial Estimates**

The financial figures and costings presented in this document are provided for informational purposes only and are based on the best available data at the time of preparation. While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy and reliability of the information, it is important to note that cost projections

are subject to change due to various factors, including but not limited to, market conditions, and assumptions.

Should funding be secured, additional work will be undertaken to determine an accurate cost.

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# Message from the Lord Mayor



Hobart is one of the most unique capital cities in the world.

This is an exciting time to live, work and do business in Hobart. As the state's capital city, Hobart is at the centre of what makes Tasmania a special and thriving home for the best our island has to offer. We have a growing reputation for being a lifestyle capital city that is an exciting place in which to create ideas, invest and do business.

Driven by high population growth and a prosperous social and economic environment, Hobart continues to transform. However, this growth must be supported by upgrades to infrastructure and services.

The decisions we make today, as a community, stakeholders and the Hobart City Council, will determine whether we maintain our identity as a city that is far from ordinary.

As the closest level of government to the community, we are best placed to work with our community to identify their needs and to advocate for these needs with decision makers at all levels.

The City of Hobart is proud to release our Advocacy Strategy 2024 -25. This document outlines our key areas of focus to drive meaningful change and support our mission of working together to make Hobart a better place for the community.

Importantly, our advocacy approach is strategic, ensuring our advocacy efforts align with our long-term plan and community vision. No matter what point of the election cycle we are in, Council continues to engage with all sides of politics, to make sure Hobart gets our fair share of funding from state and federal governments, and to get the best possible outcome.

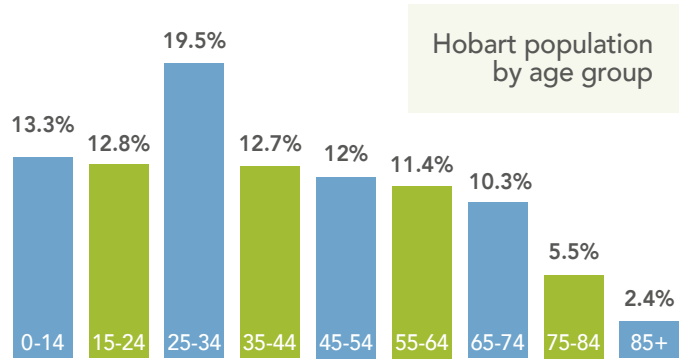
The City of Hobart looks forward to working with all levels of government to create durable partnerships to see these advocacy priorities come to fruition.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'Anna Reynolds'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'A' and 'R'.

**Anna Reynolds**

# HOBART TODAY

The diversity of the Hobart LGA is evident in our demographic and urban profile



## RESIDENT POPULATION

Population **59 964** | median age **37** years | **820** are Aboriginal people | **28%** of people born overseas

**21%** of people use a language other than English at home | **4.6%** of people live with disability | **441** people experience homelessness | **5646** international students in Tasmania

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Hobart contributes **22%** to the Tasmanian economy and **23%** of total employment | **6996** total businesses | **2.5%** unemployment rate

## CITY TRANSPORT

Top methods local workers\* use to travel to work:

- 51%** car (as driver or passenger)
- 6%** public transport
- 14%** walk
- 2%** cycle

## HOUSING TENURE

**59%** of residents own their own home | **35%** renting (4% social housing, 31% private) | **9.6%** of households experience rental and mortgage stress

\* Local workers are people employed in Hobart, regardless of where they live.







# Strategic context

A strong evidence base informs our strategies and contributes to our advocacy priorities. Our advocacy priorities are closely aligned with our Community Vision and Annual Plan and other strategic inputs, including our Intergovernmental Relations and Advocacy Framework 2023–2027.

## **Eight pillars of our community vision:**

- 1.** Sense of place
- 2.** Community inclusion, participation and belonging
- 3.** Creativity and culture
- 4.** City economies
- 5.** Movement and connectivity
- 6.** Natural environment
- 7.** Built environment
- 8.** Governance and civic involvement

# 1

## kunanyi/Mt Wellington

### THE ASK

The City of Hobart is advocating for funding towards investment in kunanyi/Mt Wellington to improve visitor access and enrich visitor experiences for locals and visitors, noting 500 000 people visit this site annually.

### WHAT WE ARE SEEKING

Pinnacle Road guard rail – stage 3 and The Springs to Bracken Lane to address the defective nature of the existing rail	\$9 million
Construction of a visitor hub at Halls Saddle	\$5.7 million
Wellington Park entry roundabout	\$1.5 million
Pinnacle – boardwalk replacement	\$1 million
The Springs – services (power and drinking water)	\$1 million
The Springs – new toilets and surrounding infrastructure	\$1 million
Upgrade to Pinnacle toilet	\$800 000
A new electronic sign to be located at the entry to the park which will have real time messaging capabilities	\$350 000

### WHY IT'S IMPORTANT

No matter where you are in Hobart you are never far away from our beloved mountain, kunanyi/Mt Wellington.

The City of Hobart owns and manages the summit and eastern slopes of Kunanyi/Mt Wellington, the heart of visitation to the mountain. The City's land is part of the 18 250 hectare Wellington Park, administered by the Wellington Park Management Trust.

The City of Hobart is the management agency

for the most highly visited areas of the mountain and owns and manages the 'lion's share' of assets that support visitor access and usage. The City's investment in infrastructure exceeds \$84 million and is comprised of approximately \$60 million in road assets and \$24 million in bushland assets – tracks, fire trails, foot bridges, boardwalks and signage – with an annual spend of over \$3 million on operational and capital investment costs.

Visitation to Hobart and southern Tasmania, including the mountain, remains the key driver of our state's visitor economy.



Picture: Natasha Mulhall/Brand Tasmania

kunanyi/Mt Wellington is Tasmania's second most visited tourist attraction and the most visited natural site, with 500 000 people visiting it annually.

By 2028 this figure is expected to reach 700 000 people visiting the mountain every year. Cradle Mountain and Freycinet National Park follow closely in terms of visitation.

Based on our indications we know that 10% of visitors to kunanyi/Mt Wellington are from Tasmania, 28% are locals, and over 60% are from interstate.

Despite being such a huge tourism drawcard for visitors to Tasmania, government investment in kunanyi/Mt Wellington is largely restricted to funding of the Wellington Park Management Trust. Unlike other natural

attractions, such as Cradle Mountain and Freycinet National Park, no significant state or federal grant funds have been provided to improve the visitor experience on the mountain.

It is therefore our collective responsibility to ensure this very special place is preserved for its natural values and that as the jewel in Hobart's tourism crown it is carefully and responsibly managed. That is why we have long lobbied for attention to be given to this much-loved site.

While the City of Hobart welcomes the Tasmanian Government's announcement of a strategic review of kunanyi/Mt Wellington, improvements to this iconic site are required now.

# 2

## Delivering transport choice for Hobart

### THE ASK

The City of Hobart is seeking investment towards diversification of transport infrastructure aimed at enhancing Hobart’s mobility and improving connectivity.

### KEY FACTS

Project value	In the order of \$15 million
Funding sought	Funding amount sought to be determined
Funding committed	City of Hobart contribution to be determined
Phase	A peer review proof of concept has been undertaken by consultants to determine likely project costs
Project timeline	Two to three years

### WHAT WE ARE SEEKING:

Hobart is committed to being a city where everyone has effective, safe, healthy and environmentally friendly ways to move and connect, through spaces and the natural environment.

Successful cities use walking, cycling and micro mobility options to move people with a lower space and pollution intensity.

A crucial active mobility gap in Hobart’s growing network is the lack of a comfortable alternative to cycling along Sandy Bay Road. There is now a generational opportunity to link the busy central Hobart and Sullivans Cove to the vibrant Sandy Bay precinct by creating a new and fully accessible active travel corridor

through the green and heritage streets of Battery Point and along its spectacular foreshore.

### Battery Point Shared Pathway

We have long held a desire to improve walking and cycling accessibility throughout Hobart.

The notion of establishing a shared pathway to provide all-purpose access around Battery Point from Sandy Bay to Sullivans Cove has been proposed for more than 15 years.

Concept design options were developed and considered by Hobart City Council in 2008 with an extensive community engagement process undertaken in 2009.



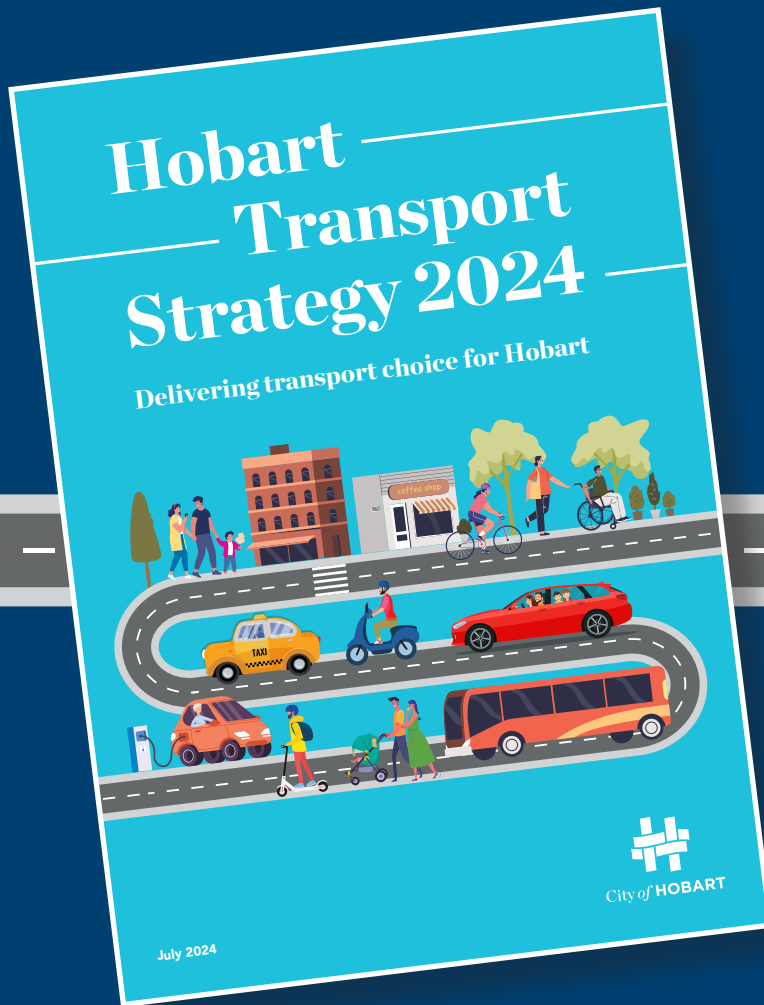
In recent years the council has completed two transport connectivity projects which were:

- Development of designated pedestrian and cycling facilities throughout Sullivans Cove to Castray Esplanade.
- Development of a cycleway from Marieville Esplanade to the city boundary at Tarooma.

However, while these two projects have been completed, the 'missing link' remains the absence of an active transport corridor around the Battery Point Foreshore, connecting Castray Esplanade with Marieville Esplanade.

# 2

## Delivering transport choice for Hobart (Cont)



### Cycling and walking improvements

The City of Hobart recently released the 2024 Hobart Transport Strategy, which sets out a vision for city transport over the next decade, focusing on sustainable, convenient and cost-effective travel choices. To view a copy visit: [hobartcity.com.au/Council/Strategies-and-plans/Transport-Strategy](https://hobartcity.com.au/Council/Strategies-and-plans/Transport-Strategy)

This roadmap captures what the community has shared and what is important to them – to provide transport choice for the people of Hobart.

Although planning and design needs to occur on a number of key projects, the strategy provides guidance on what these projects will be.

Benchmarking against similar projects, we can predict the cost to deliver these projects.



Projects we would be seeking funding towards include the following:

<b>Cycling improvements</b>	
Augusta Road Separated Bikeway	<b>\$1.4 million</b>
North Hobart Separated Bikeway	<b>\$2 million</b>
Collins St Separated Bikeway (permanent solution – Molle to Argyle St)	<b>\$4.2 million</b>
Battery Point Walkway connections (Sandy Bay and Castray Esplanade)	<b>\$900 000</b>
<b>Walking improvements</b>	
West Hobart 'wombat crossings'	<b>\$1.3 million</b>



# 3

## Housing and urban development

### THE ASK

The City of Hobart is seeking investment towards its ambition to increasing housing supply across the city by improving planning capabilities and by upgrading infrastructure to remove impediments to housing intensification.

### KEY FACTS

Project value	Between approximately \$23 million and \$25 million
Funding sought	Specific funding amount sought to be determined post outcome of the City of Hobart's submission to the Federal Government Housing Support Program Stream 2
Funding committed	Our in-kind support will take the form of planning, design, project management and public engagement with affected communities. This shovel-ready project will have clear economic benefit
Phase	Shovel ready

### WHAT WE ARE SEEKING

To support this work we are seeking funds to future-proof the innovation precinct, increasing local resilience to the impacts of climate change by upgrading stormwater infrastructure and minimising the risk of extreme flooding to people and infrastructure in the Hobart CBD.

Economies of scale means the collective buying power of our local government area will dwarf any smaller stormwater infrastructure improvements developers of individual sites might otherwise provide. By pooling resources,

we can take bold, city-shaping steps to future-proof the innovation precinct from flood risk. This will act as a clear incentive to developers, resulting in employment opportunities in the construction industry, and longer-term, economic activation of an under-utilised part of the Hobart CBD.

### WHY IT'S IMPORTANT

The City of Hobart has a vision to support the delivery of increased housing supply by advancing a project that improves our building planning capability.





Previous work, coalescing into our Central Hobart Plan, has identified a number of inner-city precincts. We aim to draw upon each precinct's unique character as we shape their future purpose.

The Innovation Precinct, as detailed in the Central Hobart Plan (CHP), comprises some 22 large city blocks north of the Royal Hobart Hospital. It is adjacent to significant teaching and research facilities, including the UTAS College of Health and Medicine, and incorporates the Menzies Institute for Medical

Research as well as TasTAFE's main Campbell Street campus. The Innovation Precinct has a considerable number of large lots identified in the Central Hobart Plan as under-utilised.

We recognise that a crucial part of addressing the housing crisis is offering development certainty and minimising obstacles in the development appraisal process. That is why we aim to encourage the redevelopment of under-utilised sites into high quality, medium density housing, especially suitable for people part of a city workforce.

# 3

## Housing and urban development (Cont)



### Enabling infrastructure to support increased housing supply

We have a strategic vision that supports the delivery of increased housing supply by advancing projects that will deliver infrastructure that unlocks more housing in the inner city.

Planned new development in central Hobart has the potential to mitigate the impacts of climate change. We will incorporate contemporary, best practice sustainability standards into the planning system and

innovative design responses to ensure that Hobart benefits from climate-resilient construction. Ultimately, increased infill developments will safeguard residents and secure Tasmanian homes against the effects of climate change. These inner-city precincts are not subject to bushfire risk – the city’s highest environmental risk – coastal inundation or erosion, and so are less likely to be affected by future climate change impacts.

The proposed stormwater works are fully supported by a flood modelling assessment which was carried out in the Central Hobart Plan area.



# 4

## New Town Sports Precinct

### THE ASK

The City of Hobart is seeking funding for the New Town Sports Precinct. The precinct currently attracts up to 400 000 people a year and growing.

### KEY FACTS

Project value	<b>\$60 million over five years</b>
Funding sought	<b>\$20 million (State Government commitment) \$30 million (Federal Government commitment)</b>
Funding committed	<b>City of Hobart contribution to be determined</b>
Phase	<b>Seeking funding to progress to DA and construction phase</b>
Project timeline	<b>Five years</b>

### WHY IT'S IMPORTANT

The City of Hobart recognises that sport and recreation is a significant contributor to the economy and also provides many health and social benefits, building on Hobart's lifestyle attributes.

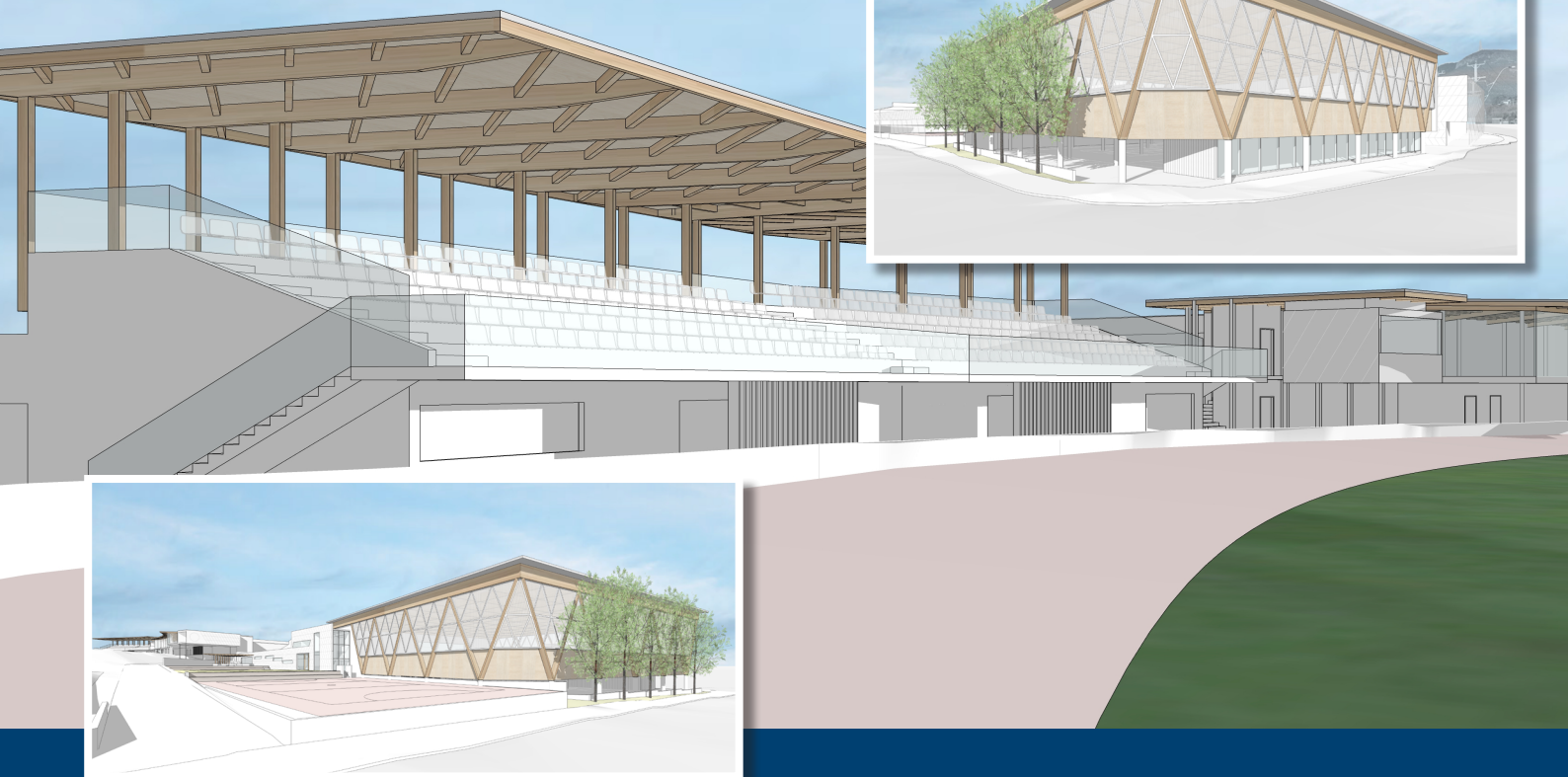
We recognise these benefits by providing and facilitating access to a variety of sport, recreation, and leisure opportunities across Hobart, importantly ensuring the facilities are the starting block for participation in sport as well as helping people to maintain active and healthy lifestyles.

The City of Hobart currently owns and operates 19 outdoor sports grounds, and 34

recreational leased facilities. With over 120 sporting clubs accessing these facilities, there is an ever-increasing demand for facilities that support non-structured recreational activities and casual sport.

With a multi-purpose stadium at the core of the proposed Macquarie Point Urban Renewal project, it is imperative community infrastructure is boosted to allow community sport to thrive. Investment in the stadium should foster grassroots sports while creating sustainable sporting infrastructure for the entire community.

The City of Hobart has completed a detailed New Town Sports Precinct Master Plan and design concept plans.



The New Town Sports Precinct is a tangible example of grassroots sports, and encompasses many major sporting facilities including the New Town Oval, Buckingham Bowls Club, Hobart Netball and Sports Centre, the New Town Croquet Club and the only cycling track in the south of the state. There has been a long history of sporting use at New Town, with many of the sporting clubs having been associated with the precinct for more than a century.

The precinct is owned by the City of Hobart, however, most of the site, excluding New Town Oval, is under lease to resident sporting clubs and groups. The site is particularly challenging given it includes several highly active facilities used by a wide variety of clubs, associations and other stakeholders, with many experiencing membership and participation growth.

The site provides possibly the highest level of female participation across any other sporting precinct in Tasmania, with the majority of netball participants being female.

The precinct also supports sports with a high growth in female participation, such as cricket and Australian football. Many facilities, including the toilets and change rooms, do not meet contemporary standards for female sport.

### ECONOMIC BENEFITS

- This project will create an estimated 120 construction industry jobs over five years, with a further seven years needed for professional services such as engineering, and architectural jobs.
- Over the longer term the project could create up to two full time equivalent roles which would be primarily focused on the daily operation of the Hobart Netball and Sports Centre.
- An increase in recreational opportunities will also have an indirect economic benefit by supporting a healthier community and reducing the pressures on Tasmania's health system.

# 4

## New Town Sports Precinct (cont)

### PROJECT BENEFITS

- An increase in netball courts by two.
- An indoor court with capacity to potentially host Australian Netball League matches.
- Improved parking and an increase in parking spaces. Improved traffic management and pedestrian safety by increasing drop-off and pick-up spaces as well as dedicated pedestrian access.
- Improved function facilities at New Town Oval and the Hobart Netball and Sports Centre.
- Four new modern, accessible change rooms for New Town Oval.
- New change rooms for the Hobart Netball and Sports Centre.
- New accessible public toilet facilities.
- Improved storage.
- New accessible clubroom facility for the New Town Croquet Club.

The New Town Sports Precinct is probably one of the most heavily used sporting precincts in Greater Hobart, if not Tasmania. It attracts up to 400 000 people every year, and this number is growing. Many of the clubs and associations that use the precinct are experiencing huge growth in participation.

While the City of Hobart has received some funding towards upgrading facilities at this

site, including \$1 million for stage one of the New Town Sports Precinct Master Plan redevelopment, we have been predominately unsuccessful in attracting a meaningful share of funding towards much-needed upgrades to its aging sporting facilities.

### Examples of projects funded outside of Hobart in recent years include:

- **\$25 million** towards a precinct plan at Devonport Oval (2024 state election commitment).
- **\$21.5 million** towards upgrades at the Elphin Sports Centre (2024 state election commitment).
- **\$5 million** towards the Glenorchy War Memorial Pool (2024 state election commitment).
- **\$8 million** towards the planning design and construction of a new multi-sports facility at Rokeby (2021 state election commitment).
- **\$65 million** investment to redevelop UTAS Stadium (2021 state election commitment).
- **\$27.5 million** towards the \$43.6 million Northern Suburbs Community Recreation Hub.
- **\$10 million** investment towards the upgrade of football facilities across Tasmania (2021 state election commitment).
- **\$6 million** towards upgrades at Blundstone Arena (2021 state election commitment).



- **\$5 million** for works at the Silverdome (2021 state election commitment).
- **\$33.5 million** to design, plan and construct an indoor sports facility at Glenorchy to be used for multiple sports including basketball, netball, gymnastics, volleyball, futsal and martial arts (2018 state election commitment).
- Up to **\$2.5 million** towards the Pembroke Park redevelopment plan (2018 Prosser state election campaign).
- **\$2 million** towards upgrades at the Moonah and Clarence sports centres.

Club	Active/playing members	Number of teams	Expected membership change
Southern Tasmania Netball Association	2518	284	+30%
Buckingham Bowls Club	102	59	+10%
New Town Croquet Club	51	4	+20%
New Town District Cricket Club	147	13	+10%
North Hobart Junior Football Club	450	NA	+25%
St Virgils Football Club	102	4	+20%
Hobart Wheelers Cycling Club	79	NA	+15%

# 5

## Dedicated home for the Hobart Phoenix Basketball Association

### THE ASK

The City of Hobart is seeking funding towards the construction of a dedicated basketball facility at Rugby Park to be used as a home base for the Hobart Phoenix Basketball Club.

### KEY FACTS

Project value	<b>\$22 million over five years</b>
Funding sought	<b>\$7.3 million (State Government commitment) \$11 million (Federal Government commitment)</b>
Funding committed	<b>City of Hobart contribution to be determined</b>
Phase	<b>DA documentation is currently under preparation</b>
Project timeline	<b>Two years with likely start date in 2025</b>

### WHY IT'S IMPORTANT

The City of Hobart recognises that sport and recreation is a significant contributor to the economy and also provides many health and social benefits, building on Hobart's lifestyle attributes.

We recognise these benefits by providing and facilitating access to a variety of sport, recreation and leisure opportunities across Hobart, ensuring facilities are the starting block for greater participation in sport and helping people to maintain active and healthy lifestyles.

The City of Hobart currently owns and operates 19 outdoor sports grounds, and 34 recreational leased facilities. With over 120 sporting clubs accessing these facilities, there

is an ever increasing demand for facilities that support non-structured recreational and the casualisation of sport.

With a multi-purpose stadium at the core of the proposed Macquarie Point Urban Renewal project, it is imperative community infrastructure is boosted to allow community sport to thrive. Investment in the stadium should foster grassroots sports while creating sustainable sporting infrastructure for the entire community.

Currently, more than 15 000 people play basketball in Tasmania, and this number is growing. Many of these players are children. There are just 50 or so basketball courts available for use across the state.





# 5

## Dedicated home for the Hobart Phoenix Basketball Association (Cont)

Greater Hobart suffers from a severe shortage of basketball courts. Despite having the third highest population of any local government area in Tasmania, the City of Hobart provides just one outdoor basketball court, at South Hobart Oval, and this court does not meet regulations for matches.

In 2023 Basketball Tasmania said the state needs at least 26 new indoor courts to keep up with demand, following the runaway success of the Tasmania JackJumpers and the surge in interest in basketball.

While acknowledging both private and government investment in the development of new basketball courts in Tasmania's south in recent years, there are no other indoor community spaces for basketball being development.

The Hobart Phoenix Basketball Club is one of the many clubs experiencing exponential growth in Tasmania. Established in 1990, the club currently fields over 125 teams throughout the year, with up to 700 players hitting the court each and every week. However, the club does not have a dedicated home base and is heavily reliant on the hire of school courts and courts provided by private operators. The club is forced to play all matches outside of Hobart. Without a dedicated home the club is unable to create a community environment that fosters greater social, health and economic outcomes.

The club is therefore currently seeking funding towards the construction of four courts on Hobart City Council land owned at Rugby Park, New Town.

### ECONOMIC BENEFITS

- This project would create an estimated 44 construction jobs and five professional services jobs such as engineering or architecture.
- Over the longer term the project could create up to two full time equivalent roles, which would be charged with managing the stadium, administration, cleaning and maintenance.
- An increase in recreational opportunities would also have indirect economic benefits by supporting a healthier community and reducing pressures the health system.

### PROJECT BENEFITS

- New basketball stadium including four courts.
- New changeroom facilities.
- Accessible toilet and shower facilities.
- Administrative facilities to support club growth.
- Improved and increased parking including the provision of equal access.

While the City of Hobart acknowledges it has received some funding towards facility upgrades, including \$1 million for stage one of the New Town Sports Precinct Master Plan redevelopment, we have predominately been unsuccessful in attracting any meaningful share of funding towards much-needed upgrades to aging sporting facilities or the provision of new facilities.



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