



The Hon Michael Ferguson MP
Deputy Premier
Treasurer
Minister for Infrastructure and Transport
Minister for Planning

25 January 2024

Dear Deputy Premier

Greater Hobart Strategic Partnership 2024-25 State Budget Submission: Investing in ferry infrastructure

As Mayors of the Greater Hobart Strategic Partnership – a collaboration comprising the Hobart, Clarence, Glenorchy and Kingborough councils that represents nearly 40% of the Tasmanian population– we have been leading calls to address infrastructure constraints that are currently preventing expansion of the River Derwent Ferry Service.

As you are aware, the introduction of a passenger ferry service between Bellerive and the Hobart CBD in 2021 has been enthusiastically embraced by residents and visitors alike, with hundreds of thousands of passengers having used the service. Continued growth in ferry transport, however, has been limited by the availability, reliability, and scale of cross-river infrastructure, including fit-for-purpose ferry terminals.

Our Councils have been working hard over the last two years to investigate opportunities to develop infrastructure to support an expanded ferry service. As Mayors, we have been leading advocacy efforts to attract funding for this project and successfully secured a \$20 million commitment from the Australian Government to support the network expansion. This funding will enable the development of three new ferry terminals at Lindisfarne, Wilkinsons Point and Sandy Bay as part of a modernised ferry network.

While we welcome the Tasmanian Government's commitment to expand and operate the ferry service through the release of the Draft River Derwent Ferry Service Masterplan – which identifies Lindisfarne, Howrah, Wilkinsons Point, Sandy Bay, Regatta Point and Kingston Beach as the six best locations for expansion – it is clear that further investment is required to make this vision a reality.

With the support of the Australian Government, Councils have secured funding for three of the six terminal locations identified in the Masterplan. The Tasmanian Government now has an important role to play in supporting jobs and improving outcomes for Greater Hobart commuters by delivering the remaining ferry terminals envisioned as part of the expanded network.

In the upcoming 2024-25 State Budget, we are calling on the Tasmanian Government to deliver a \$26 million ferry infrastructure package to complete the River Derwent ferry terminal network. This package comprises:

- **\$20 million to match the commitment by the Federal Government and enable the development of an additional three ferry terminals (Howrah Point, Kingston Beach, Regatta Point) as outlined in the Draft River Derwent Ferry Service Masterplan; and**



- **\$6 million to complete the redevelopment of the Bellerive Terminal, delivering important upgrades and fit-for-purpose passenger infrastructure.**

This \$26 million package will deliver the infrastructure necessary to support an expanded ferry network to key strategic sites across the River Derwent.

As network operator, we note the Tasmanian Government will also be responsible for funding services as part of the expanded network. **We call on the government to work with our councils through the Derwent Ferry Project Steering Committee to examine service delivery models to activate the terminal network, and develop an operating plan in consultation with industry experts. As network plans are developed, a long-term funding commitment will be required to deliver services and provide certainty to prospective service providers, commuters and the wider community.** This work should occur as a priority and inform a competitive tender process to select a suitable service provider to operate the expanded ferry network.

While this is a significant investment, an expanded ferry network will deliver broad economic and social benefits – both in the immediate term through direct job opportunities and in the long term through infrastructure improvements, enhanced productivity and improved social connectivity.

Ultimately the biggest winners of this investment will be Greater Hobart residents managing their daily commutes, as more transport options will reduce traffic on our major arterial roads. Given ongoing pressures on our roads and buses, growing the ferry network will improve the commuter experience for all Greater Hobart residents in a cost effective way.

With the support of all three levels of government, expanding the River Derwent ferry service to additional locations will be a true game changer for Greater Hobart as we continue to receive the benefits of, and grapple with the challenges of, population growth.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this submission with you in further detail, either through the existing Greater Hobart Committee governance framework or a dedicated meeting. Should your office wish to discuss this submission, please contact Joe Fennessy, Executive Officer – Greater Hobart Strategic Partnership on 0499 500 086 or fennessyj@hobartcity.com.au.

Yours Sincerely

Lord Mayor of Hobart
Cr Anna Reynolds

Mayor of Clarence
Cr Brendan Blomeley

Mayor of Glenorchy
Ald Bec Thomas

Mayor of Kingborough
Cr Paula Wriedt