

ISSUE 1921

# "In Support of Progress" Newsletter

**Macquarie Point**  
**Hobart City Deal**  
**Power Prices**

Date: 2 August 2019

## **Macquarie Point**

I noticed in the paper recently that the MPDC was issuing a tender for:  
the extension of the current carpark  
line markings in the SeaRoads shed  
sealing of an area of pavement.

It's taken me a while to get up off the floor. This is really big. There has been some activity. Something's happening. - if only...

Tenders close next Wednesday. I can't wait to see the vision emerge. Is this really the new 'masterplan reset?' No doubt our new Infrastructure Minister will have something to say about it.

"It's all happening down at the Point".

## **Hobart City Deal**

Which leads on to the recent announcement about the Hobart City Deal, A media release, as represented in the Mercury newspaper, tells the story.

*"LANDMARK legislation to move ahead on Hobart's long-awaited City Deal has passed the Tasmanian Parliament.*

*The Greater Hobart Act obliges the four Greater Hobart councils — Clarence, Glenorchy, Hobart and Kingborough — to work together on cross-boundary decisions.*

*The Act, passed yesterday, sets the rules for planning, development and co-ordination between the four councils and the State Government".*

According to the State Growth Minister Michael Ferguson, the Act will:

- allow the Tasmanian Government and southern councils to capitalise on the many possibilities on the horizon for our capital city,
- effectively manage and plan for pressures our city faces as it grows
- create a strategic path forward for the Greater Hobart area
- facilitate the implementation of the Hobart City Deal and its many exciting components."
- enable an advisory group of senior officials responsible for developing a work program,
- a committee of ministers, the Lord Mayor and mayors to approve the work program.

Having read this a number of times, I have been left asking myself: What does this really mean? Its total "bureaucracy speak". What a vacuous comment. Minister, who is writing your material? Hopefully, not you!

Revisiting the elements of the deal (see #1905 for full table overleaf), the three centrepiece items were the Bridgewater Bridge (now determined by Infrastructure Australia to be not a priority as presently designed) some Antarctic infrastructure (to be built in the Antarctic, so not really a Hobart matter) and some activity at Macquarie Point. Not much left for the advisory group of senior officials to consider that could not be done within the normal processes of government.

So, instead of the normal gobbledegook, perhaps the Minister could address what is really going to be done.

	Federal	State	Local	
<b>ANNOUNCEMENT</b>				
B/water bridge	461.0	115.0		a 10-year program announced previously
Airport - border services	82.3			private airport, private benefit?
Mac. Pt Antarctic i/structure	450.0			what plans exactly?
Affordable Housing	30.0			where?
Nthn suburbs corridor activation	25.0			investigate best future option
Kingston bus interchange		0.80		
Kingston traffic i/structure		20.00		details?
Transport initiatives (below)		85.05		already announced
Other (see below)		109.07		
Local Govt initiatives			50.0	undefined as yet
<b>TOTALS (\$'m)</b>	<b>.1048.3</b>	<b>329.9</b>	<b>50.0</b>	<b>1,428.2</b>
<b>State Govt transport initiatives</b>				
A Hobart Transit Centre		0.75		identify locations, planning
Nthn Suburbs Transit Corridor		0.30		activate
Single Ticketing System		7.50		to be developed
Derwent R ferry service		2.00		to progress the trial
Davey/Macquarie dual carriageway		16.00		Improvements to be made
SE traffic package		21.00		Which is ?? - to implement
Southern Outlet 5th lane		35.50		to progress
Cycling Lanes		2.00		to support councils
		<b>85.05</b>		
<b>Other State Govt initiatives</b>				
Implementation of deal, incl Act		4.00		
Mac Pt sewage move		100.00		whenever
Major cultural venues a		0.05		a review
Major cultural venues b		0.02		a review
Transformation of Mac Pt		5.00		commencement
key parcels of land		???		unstated, uncosted
		<b>109.07</b>		

Table reproduced from #1905, published on 27 February

### Power Prices

In the last newsletter I made comment about the Tasmanian power price regime, and its relevance to power users. It seems obvious to me that the process being followed ie to link in with mainland pricing, is of little benefit to local consumers.

The government may wish to talk the talk on this matter, but it would be instructive for them to talk to the major power users and really understand what is going on. There's a lot at stake here.

It's all very well to own a power utility – as it should - but the government should not be using it/them as a vehicle for revenue as much as it/they should be used to ensure a broader benefit to the Tasmanian economy.

It needs to provide a proper instruction to its utilities regarding the broader role that they need to play within the Tasmanian economy. It's certainly not happening that way at the moment.

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