



**Brighton
Council**

Media Release

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Brighton Council advocates for expanded River Derwent ferry services

BRIGHTON Council is keen to work in partnership with the State Government and Hobart City Deal councils (Clarence, Glenorchy, Hobart and Kingborough councils), to ensure that the Greater Hobart Transport Vision includes the extension of metropolitan ferry services to Old Beach, Gagebrook, Bridgewater and even as far as New Norfolk once the new Bridgewater Bridge is completed at the end of 2024.

Brighton is one of the fastest growing municipalities in the State and more than 70 percent of the workforce commutes to Hobart or Glenorchy for work. For this reason, Council believes ferry terminals in strategic locations within the municipality are key to assisting with employment opportunities, social connectivity, health & wellbeing and household living costs overall, to name just a few of the potential benefits. It is fully acknowledged that a key issue limiting education, training and employment opportunities is the accessibility and cost of transport for our residents.

Mayor Gray said, *“With the commencement of the new Bridgewater Bridge project this year, it is the perfect opportunity to consider the infrastructure required to facilitate this opportunity. With the existing jetty and boat ramp in Bridgewater needing to be replaced as part of this project there is an opportunity for a cost neutral jetty fit for ferries and fit for the future. I believe we are ideally placed to provide ‘park and ride’ infrastructure in close proximity to ferry terminals, delivering a hub for not just our residents but residents from other surrounding municipalities commuting into the city. We are situated at the meeting of three (3) major highways: Midlands, East Derwent and Lyell with the perfect opportunity to connect commuters/travellers from all directions.”*

The inclusion of our region in expanded ferry services has long been supported by Bob Clifford, founder of Incat, who vehemently believes a full river service would help solve Hobart’s traffic woes, and has been clear that Bridgewater and Old Beach should be included in the first phase of ferry terminal development on the Derwent. “Such a service should embark passengers upstream from Bridgewater and Old Beach.” He said.

Mona’s 24 Carrot Gardens have a strong presence here in Gagebrook and Bridgewater with a permanent headquarters at the Botanical Institute in Eddington Street, Bridgewater. Mona and 24 Carrot Gardens have envisioned from day one the enormous possibilities for our area and our communities if we could be connected to Hobart by ferry.

Kirsha Kaechele, artist and curator at Mona said,



“Hobart’s northern suburbs suffer from a profound lack of reasonable transport options. It can take two hours to reach the city centre from Bridgewater with two bus changes required – a distance that should take less than half an hour.

This isolation creates barriers to employment and makes it, for example, impossible to reach the university in time for morning classes. It undermines quality of life, minimises opportunities and perpetuates multi-generational unemployment.

A ferry linking Bridgewater and the city would be transformative for the people of the Brighton Municipality, in turn bringing economic and social benefit for the entirety of the state.

Our river is an underutilised resource, let’s use it! Investing in the waterways is better economic policy – and using green hydrogen energy for ferries, more environmentally progressive than the alternative.”

The Hobart City Deal includes an “adjunct council” provision to ensure the participation of other relevant councils in specific strategic initiatives. The development of expanded ferry services on the River Derwent would clearly be an initiative Brighton Council should be involved with.

Mayor Gray said, *“Brighton Council doesn’t want to complicate or frustrate the City Deal in anyway, we are extremely supportive of it and all the initiatives proposed to date, but we believe that we can make proposals such as this more viable and ensure they genuinely serve the communities that make up the whole of Greater Hobart. Brighton genuinely wants to play its part in making the Hobart City deal a transformative success over the coming years.”*

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